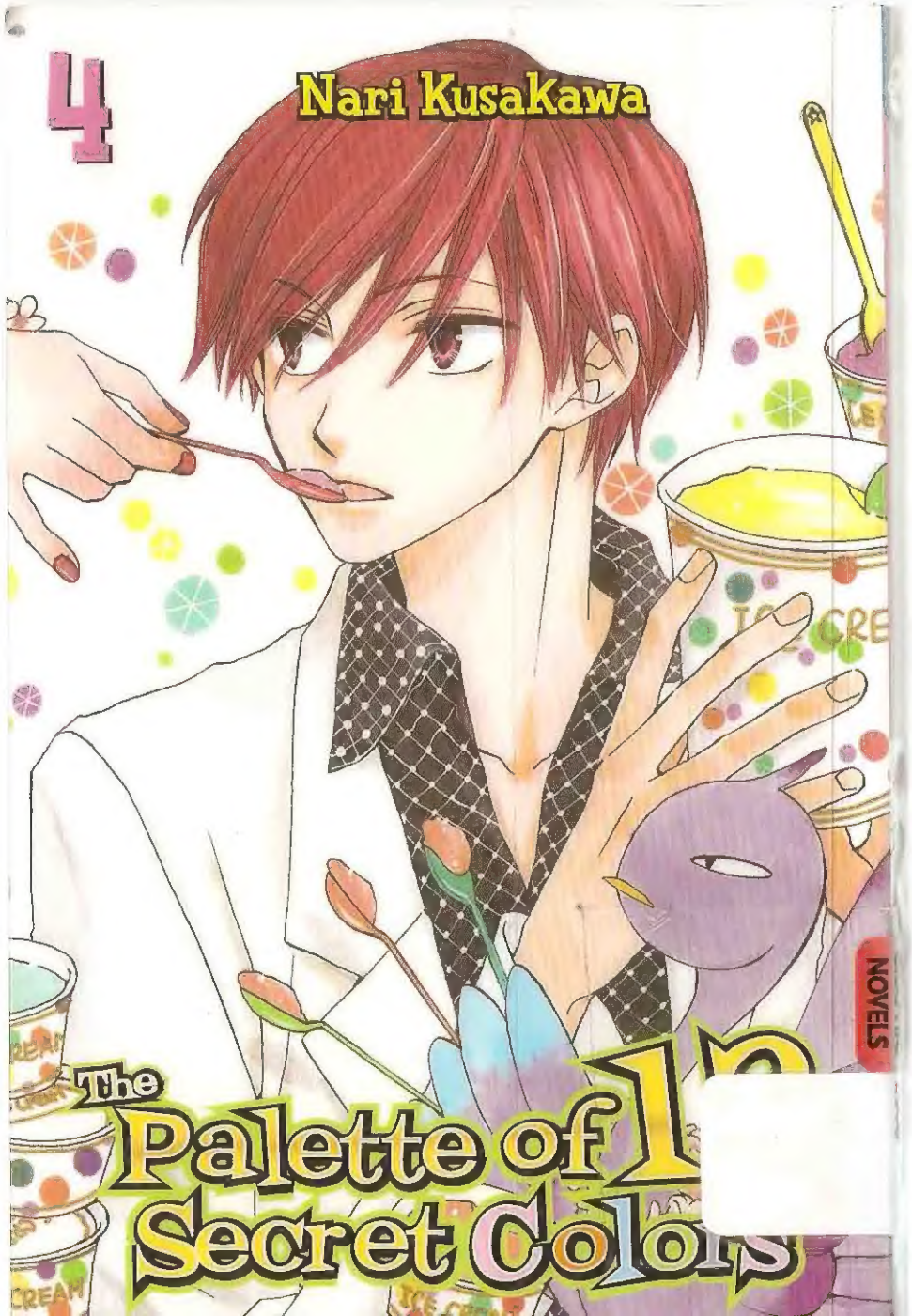
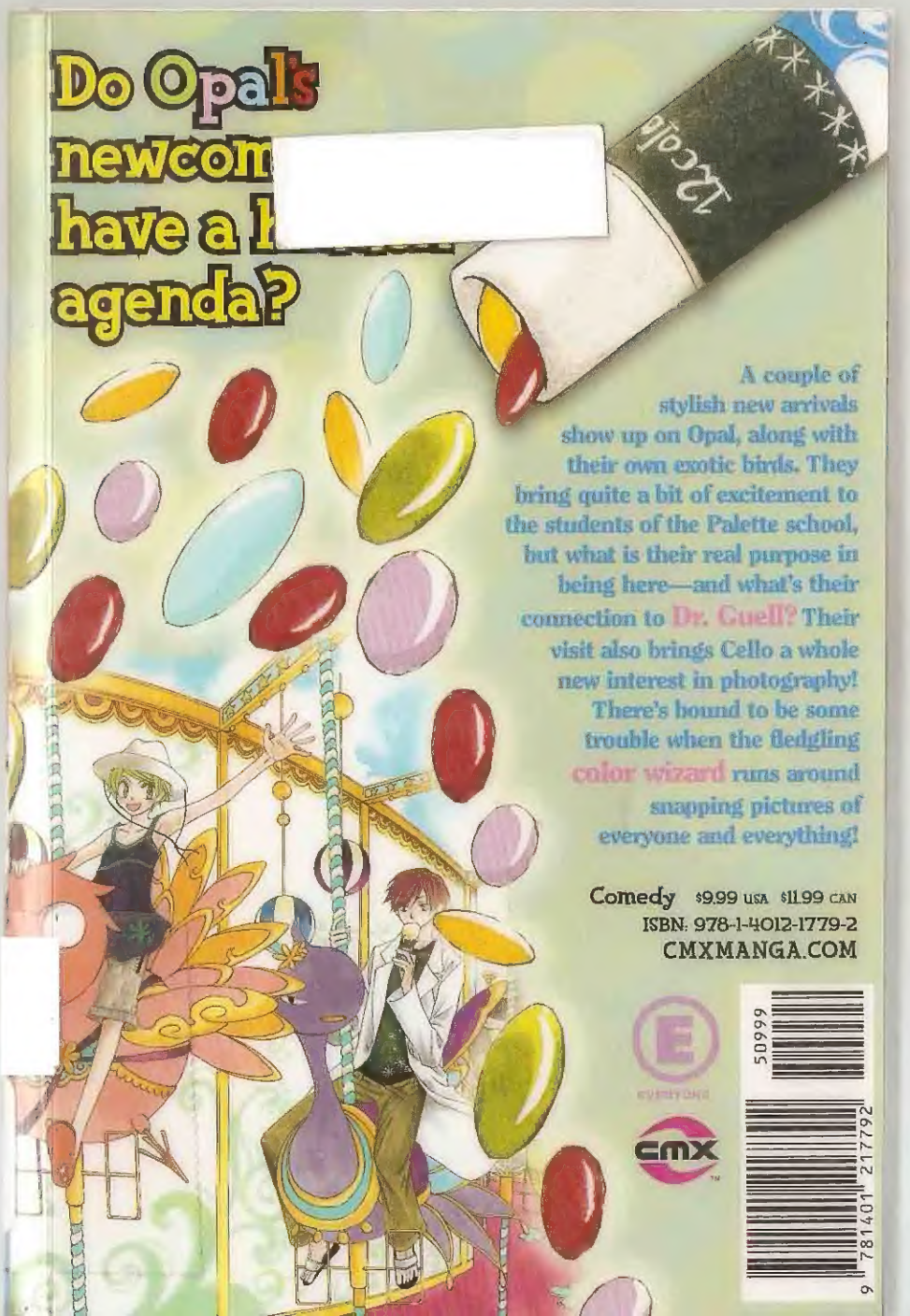

4
Nari KusaKawa
NOVELS
The
Palette of
Secret Colors



A couple of stylish new arrivals show up on Opal, along with their own exotic birds. They bring quite a bit of excitement to the students of the Palette school, but what is their real purpose in being here—and what's their connection to Dr. Cuell? Their visit also brings Cello a whole new interest in photography! There's bound to be some trouble when the fledgling color wizard runs around snapping pictures of everyone and everything!

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The Palette of 12 Secret Colors

Volume 4

By Nari Kusakawa

Episode 12 Preview Cut

Cello relaxes by stretching out on the hammock with Yayo

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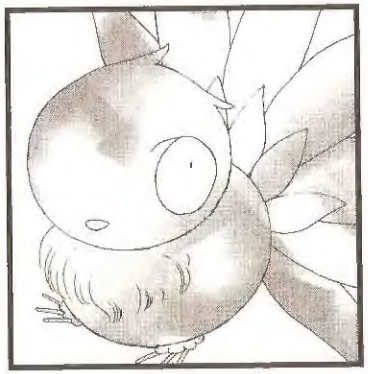
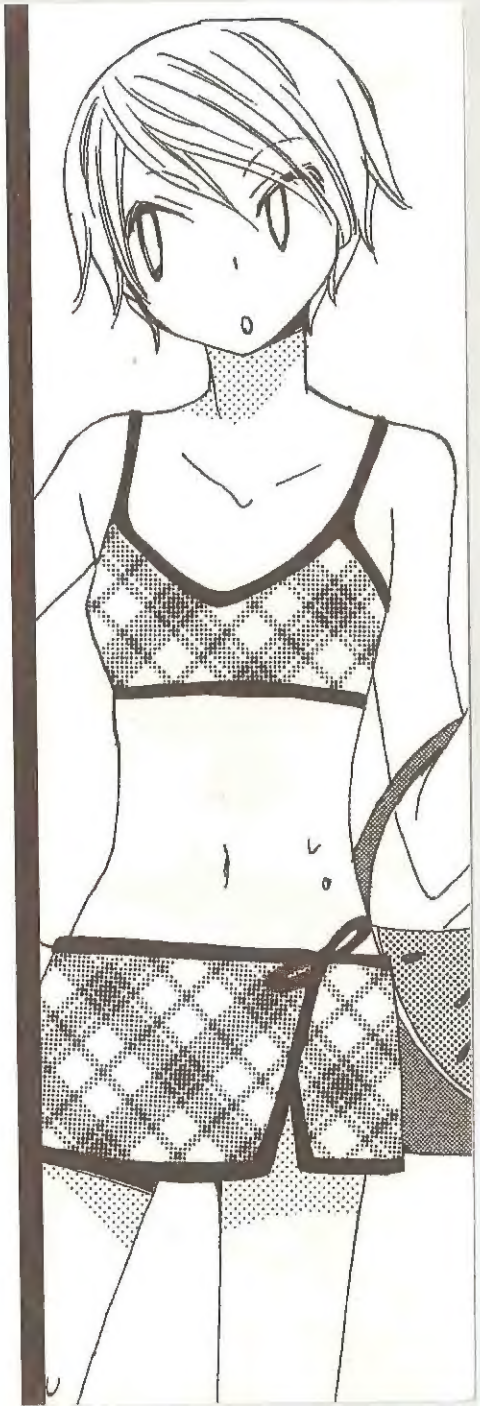




EPISODE 12

The Palette of 12 Secret Colors
十二秘色のパレット

THE REMOTE ISLAND OF OPAL IN THE SOUTH SEAS...
...IS HOME TO THE BIRDS WITH THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL FEATHERS...
...AND COLOR MAGICIANS, KNOWN AS "PALETTES."
PALETTES ARE ARTISANS WHO CAN "BORROW" COLORS FROM ANYTHING THEY TOUCH.
THEY'RE PARTNERED WITH THE BRILLIANTLY-COLORED BIRDS, THE ISLAND'S MOST VALUABLE TREASURE.
BY TAKING COLORS FROM THEIR FEATHERS, THE PALETTES PRODUCE A DAZZLING ARRAY OF PRODUCTS.
CLANK
CLUNK
KA-TINK
CLANK
OHH
HH
OOO

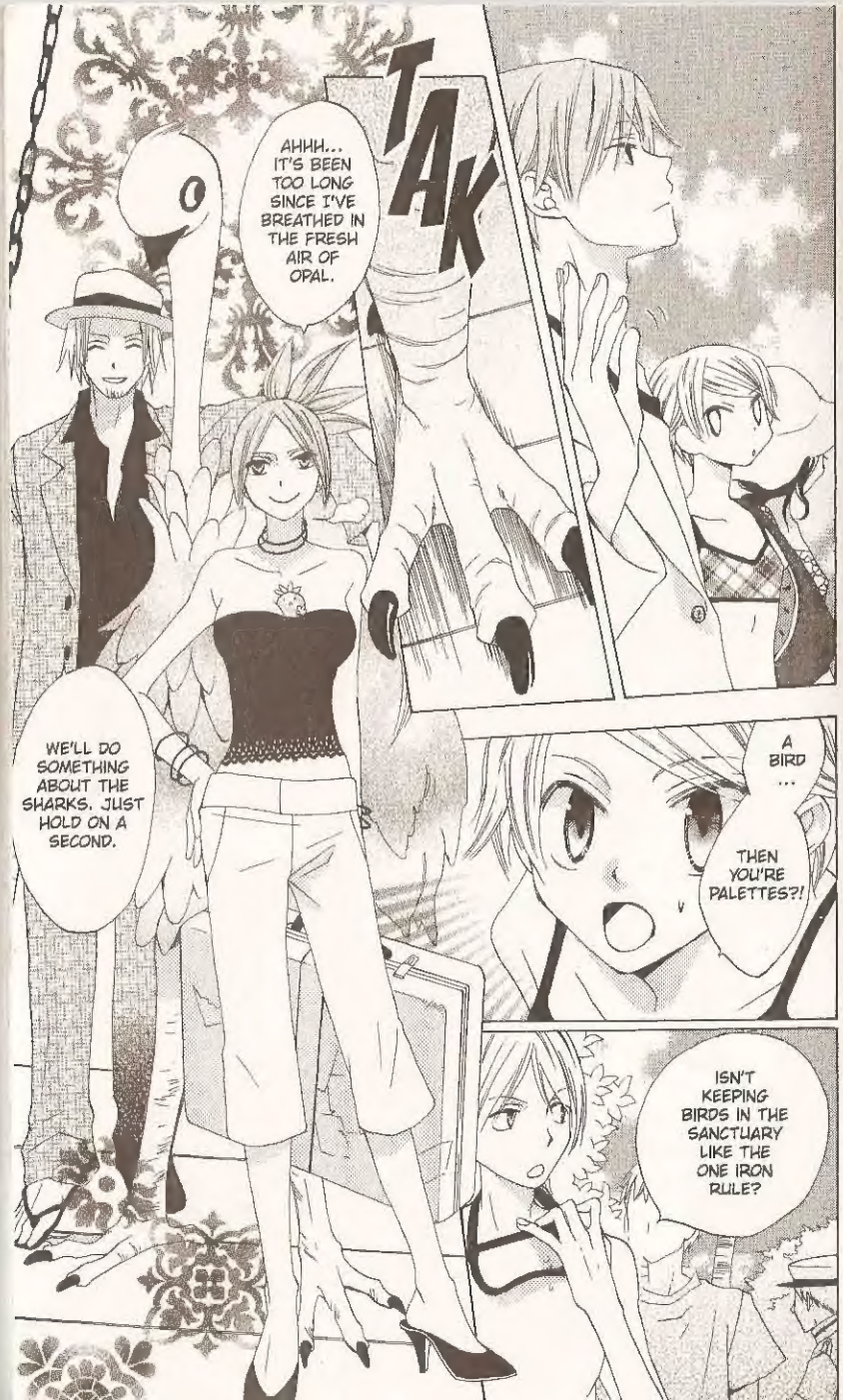
Episode 13 Preview cut

Shaved ice in the shape of Olga. It's grape-flavored. However, I slipped with the eyes part; they have a calm look that Olga's would never have. I can see the Doctor arguing with the shaved ice seller: "Olga doesn't have these eyes. Give me a discount for my disappointment."

I LIKE THE CLOTH WORK-SHOP.
I'D LOVE TO TRY MY HAND AT COLORING CLOTHES FABRIC.
PUSH
I'M FINE. AFTER ALL, THIS IS MY SECOND TIME AROUND.
SECOND-TIME FRESHMAN
HOW ABOUT YOU, FENNE?
SO TODAY WAS YOUR FIELD TRIP TO THE WORKSHOP, HUH?
SHOULDN'T YOU BE WORKING ON YOUR REPORT?
SECOND-YEAR STUDENT
HONOR STUDENT
NO WORRIES FOR THIS BOY GENIUS. BESIDES, THE WORKSHOP WAS A BLAST. SHOULD BE EASY ENOUGH TO WRITE ABOUT.
WILL I EVENTUALLY STAND AMONG THE PALETTES THERE?
SPLASH...
WOW! THAT SOUNDS GREAT!
MAYBE THE CLOTHES I MADE WOULD EVEN BECOME THE FASHION IN SOME FARAWAY COUNTRY.
I NEVER THOUGHT HE WOULD AIM AS FAR AS WORLD DOMINATION ...
HE WOULD PROBABLY TRY TO DRIVE THE MOSSELYN LINE OF GOODS OUT OF THE MARKET.
I BET FENNE-DYED PRODUCTS COULD TAKE OVER THE WORLD.
NOW THERE'S AN IDEA ...

C O O O L.
DID YOU JUST SEE THAT, CELLO?
GOTTA HAND IT TO THE PROS.
TODAY, THE PALETTE TRAINING SCHOOL FRESHMEN ARE ON A FIELD TRIP.
I KNOW.
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I VISIT THE WORKSHOP, IT'S ALWAYS EXCITING.
BY NEXT WEEK, I WANT YOU TO TURN IN A REPORT ON YOUR IMPRESSIONS FROM TODAY.
...ARE SO ALLURING...
ALRIGHT!
YOU GOT IT!
...THAT STUDENT MORALE IS SUDDENLY GIVEN A GIANT BOOST.
...THAT THE PALETTES FASHION AT THE WORKSHOP OUT OF COMMON-PLACE CLOTHS AND ROCKS...
THE BROCADE AND PRECIOUS STONES...

TOOOOT
.....
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
THE HARBOR.
A COUPLE OF ACQUAIN-TANCES OF MINE...
TOOT
I WEAR THE COAT EVEN WITH SWIMMING TRUNKS.
WHY ARE YOU SO HARD-HEADED?
YEESH, DOC, YOU WEAR THAT WHITE COAT EVERYWHERE! WANNA BORROW A PAIR OF MY SWIMMING TRUNKS?
RESERVE SUIT
TOOT
OH!
TOOT
TOOT
AH!
DR. GUELL!
(BARE SKIN + SWIMSUITS + MALE) - (CURVES DIVIDED BY SEX APPEAL)?
AS LONG AS I CAN BE WITH YOYO, ANYWHERE'S FINE.
RIGHT?
WHAT ABOUT YOU, CELLO?
WHICH WORK-SHOP DO YOU WANT TO...
NEVER MIND.
A WARNING HORN?
TOOT
WHAT'S THAT?
TOOT
WANNA CHECK IT OUT?
YEAH, LET'S GO.
IS SOMEONE ANNOUNCING THEIR PRESENCE? THAT'S PRETENTIOUS!
TOOT
TOOT
TOOT
IT'S COMING FROM THAT SHIP.
ZAA ZAA ZAA...
LOOKS LIKE IT'S ENTERING THE PORT.
WE'D BETTER GET TO SHORE.
CRUNCH...


TAK
AHHH... IT'S BEEN TOO LONG SINCE I'VE BREATHED IN THE FRESH AIR OF OPAL.
WE'LL DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE SHARKS. JUST HOLD ON A SECOND.
A BIRD ...
THEN YOU'RE PALETTES?!
ISN'T KEEPING BIRDS IN THE SANCTUARY LIKE THE ONE IRON RULE?

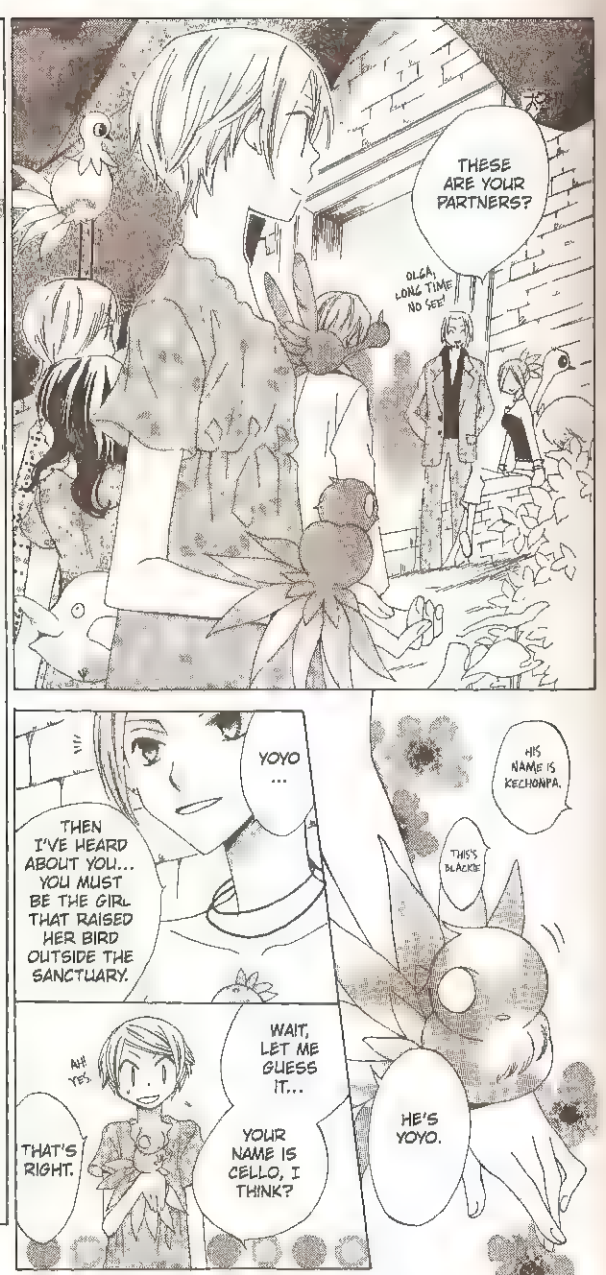
SHARKS?
...ARE ON THAT NOISY BOAT.
TOOT TOOT
MIGHT AS WELL TAKE THE SWIMSUITS OFF...
OH, MAN...THEN WE CAN'T GO SWIMMING ANY MORE TODAY?
?!
THEY FOLLOWED THAT SHIP IN.
KEEP OUT
YOU KIDS BETTER STAY OUT OF THE WATER.
...ARE WAVING AT US.
TWO OF THE PASSENGERS ...

WHAP
WHAP
WHAP
YO, GUELL! HOW'VE YOU BEEN?!
KRIK
DID YOU JUST BREAK HIS SHOULDER?
WE WERE STUDENTS AT THE TRAINING SCHOOL TOGETHER, ALTHOUGH THEY'RE ONE AND TWO YEARS OLDER THAN ME.
UPPER-CLASSMEN WHEN YOU WERE A STUDENT, DOCTOR?
GOOD TO MEET YOU.
AND YOU'RE THE "LATEST GENERATION," I TAKE IT?
THAT SHOULD DO IT.
Danger!
KEEP OUT
AS LONG AS THE HUMANS GET IT, SIS.
...BUT I'M NOT SO SURE THEY UNDERSTAND WHAT YELLOW AND BLACK STRIPES MEAN.
THE CREWMEN SAID THAT SHARKS CAN DISTINGUISH BETWEEN COLORS REALLY WELL...

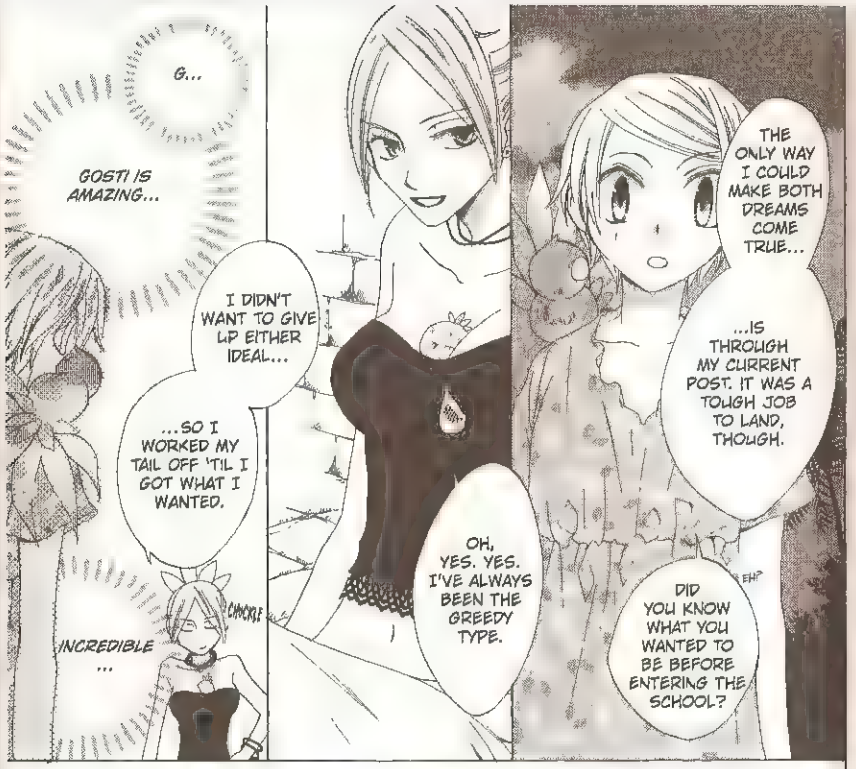
THEY'RE SPECIAL.
ALL THEIR WORK IS DONE OFF-ISLAND.
OFF-ISLAND?

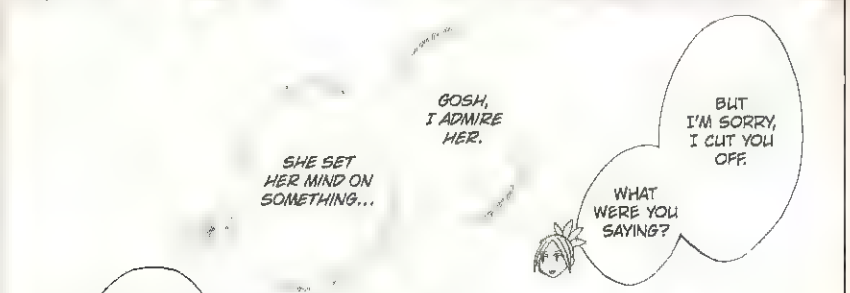
1

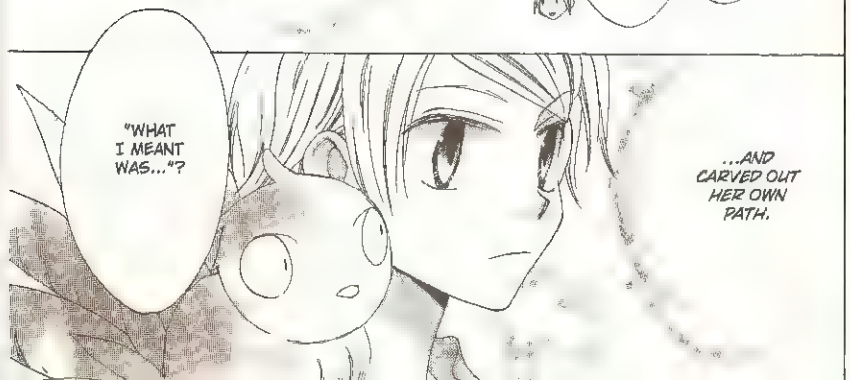
HELLO.
THANK YOU FOR GETTING VOLUME 4 OF "*PALETTE*."
VOLUME 4...WOW, THAT WAS FAST.
OF COURSE, NOT NEARLY AS FAST AS THE EP SODES PUBLISHED IN THE MAGAZINE. USING MY FIRST PUBLISHED SERIES, THE FIVE-VOLUME "*RECIPE FOR GERTRUDE*" AS A YARDSTICK, GETTING TO VOLUME 4 MEANS I SHOULD BE TRYING TO WIND THE WHOLE STORY UP, BUT I THINK I'LL LET "*PALETTE*" GO AT A LITTLE MORE LEISURELY PACE.
AS I WRITE THIS, IT'S JUST AFTER NEW YEAR'S, 2007. ON A CERTAIN TV STATION WEBSITE, I SAW THAT MY LUCK FOR THE YEAR WILL BE 6 OUT OF 576 (ON A SCALE WITH ONE BEING PERFECT, 576 THE VERY WORST)! FANTASTIC!, I THOUGHT...UNTIL I SAW THAT THAT WAS FOR 2006. THE '07 FORECAST PUT ME AT 442 OUT OF 576. DOESN'T MAKE FOR A VERY GOOD STORY SINCE "442" IS NEITHER GREAT NOR TERRIBLE. AH, WELL, I'M GONNA FORGET ABOUT THAT CRUMMY PREDICTION AND DO MY BEST THIS YEAR.


THESE ARE YOUR PARTNERS?
OLGA, LONG TIME NO SEE!
YOYO ...
THEN I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU... YOU MUST BE THE GIRL THAT RAISED HER BIRD OUTSIDE THE SANCTUARY.
HIS NAME IS KECHONPA.
THIS'S BLACKIE
AH! YES!
WAIT, LET ME GUESS IT...
THAT'S RIGHT.
YOUR NAME IS CELLO, I THINK?
HE'S YOYO.

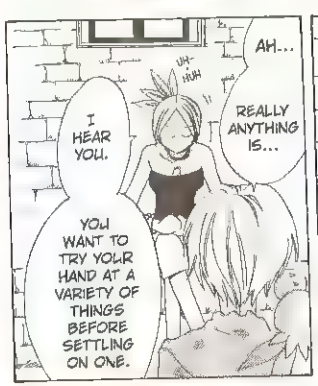
I'M MAGE...
...AND THIS IS NANABA.
HE IS ABLE TO RIDE THE BIRD!
I'M GOSTI...
...AND THIS IS MY PARTNER, MANET.
MANET!
WOWWWW...
...THESE TWO HAVE JOINED UP WITH A RESEARCH TEAM AND CROSSED THE SEAS SEVERAL TIMES OVER.
IN ORDER TO MAKE THE COLORS OF THE BIRD FEATHERS ON THE ISLAND EVEN RICHER...
ARE YOU GONNA HAVE A DRINKING PARTY TONIGHT?
OH
SO YOU WENT TO THE PORT TO MEET THEM!
I HAVEN'T SEEN THEM FOR MONTHS.
YOYO, I'M BACK!
I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WERE PALETTES LIKE THAT!
WHAT? WHY ARE YOU IGNORING ME?


G...
GOSH! IS AMAZING...
I DIDN'T WANT TO GIVE UP EITHER IDEAL...
...SO I WORKED MY TAIL OFF 'TIL I GOT WHAT I WANTED.
INCREDIBLE ...
CHUCKLE
OH, YES. YES. I'VE ALWAYS BEEN THE GREEDY TYPE.
THE ONLY WAY I COULD MAKE BOTH DREAMS COME TRUE...
...IS THROUGH MY CURRENT POST. IT WAS A TOUGH JOB TO LAND, THOUGH.
DID YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WANTED TO BE BEFORE ENTERING THE SCHOOL?
EH?

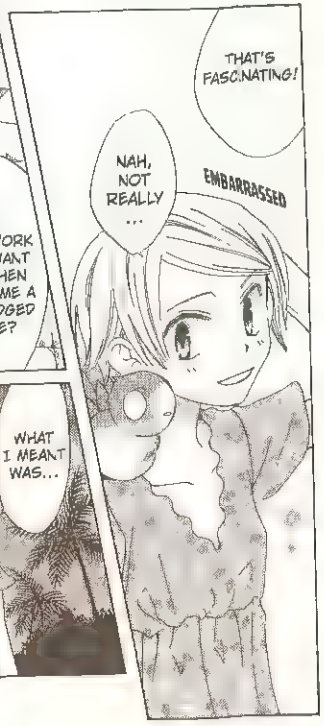

GOSH, I ADMIRE HER.
SHE SET HER MIND ON SOMETHING...
BUT I'M SORRY, I CUT YOU OFF.
WHAT WERE YOU SAYING?

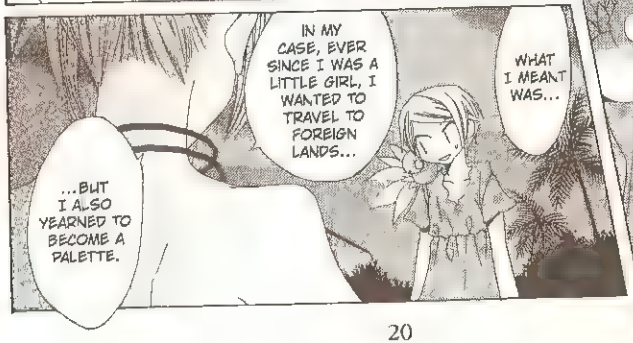

"WHAT I MEANT WAS..."?
...AND CARVED OUT HER OWN PATH.

I HEARD YOUR POWER WORKS A LITTLE BIT DIFFERENTLY THAN THE REST OF OURS.
I DON'T NEED TO ACTUALLY TOUCH ANYTHING. I CAN MANIPULATE COLORS FROM OBJECTS THAT ARE EVEN FAR AWAY.
UM...
I GUESS ...
DOESN'T DO ME ANY GOOD IN CLASS, THOUGH...


AH...
REALLY ANYTHING IS...
UH-HUH
I HEAR YOU.
YOU WANT TO TRY YOUR HAND AT A VARIETY OF THINGS BEFORE SETTLING ON ONE.

WHAT KIND OF WORK DO YOU WANT TO DO WHEN YOU BECOME A FULL-FLEDGED PALETTE?


THAT'S FASCINATING!
NAH, NOT REALLY ...
EMBARRASSED

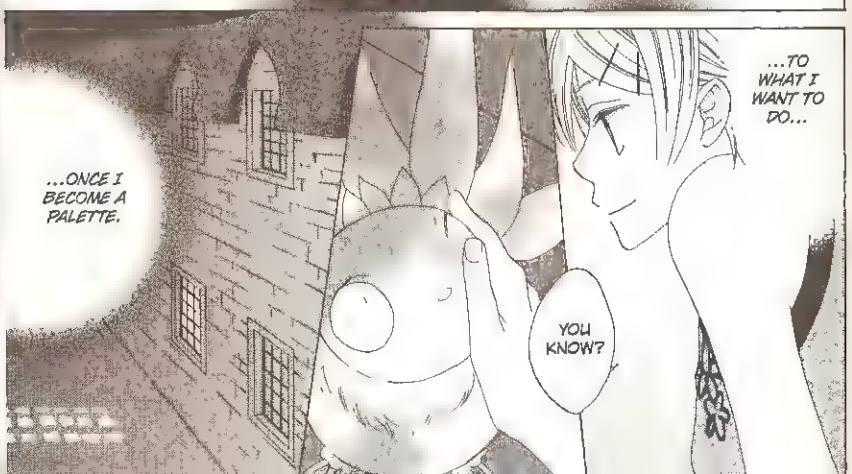

IN MY CASE, EVER SINCE I WAS A LITTLE GIRL, I WANTED TO TRAVEL TO FOREIGN LANDS...
WHAT I MEANT WAS...
...BUT I ALSO YEARNED TO BECOME A PALETTE.

ANY-
THING...
...IS
OKAY?
...
YES.
I
MUST'VE
...
...
COME OFF
SOUNDING
REALLY
CHILDISH.
DROOP
DROOP
FOOO
...

YOYO...
...IS
LOOKING
AT ME.
ANY-
THING...
...IS
OKAY.
ANY
JOB THAT
LETS ME WORK
TOGETHER WITH
YOYO...
WHAT I
REALLY
MEANT...
...WAS
THAT ANY
JOB IS
OKAY FOR
ME...
...AS
LONG AS I
GET TO DO
IT WITH
YOYO.
WHEN IT
COMES TO
THAT, ANYWAY,
I'VE GOT A
STRONG WILL,
BUT...

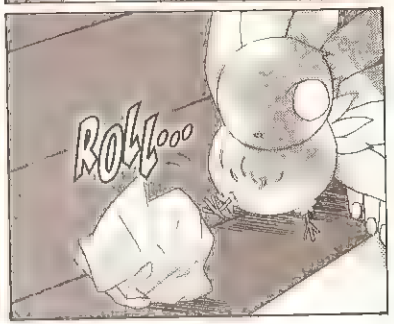
AH!
THAT DOESN'T MEAN I DON'T WANT TO BE WITH YOU.
I DO.
THAT'S WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT TO ME.

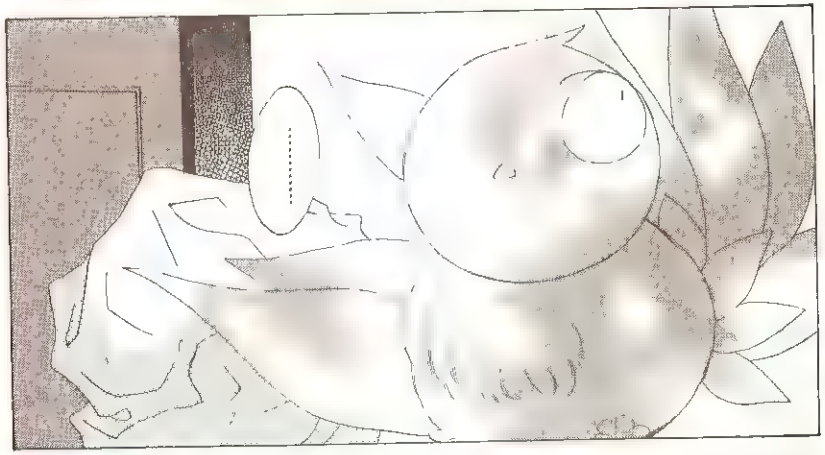
...IT'S LIKE I HAVEN'T GIVEN ANY THOUGHT...
...AND YET...
IT'S IMPORTANT...


...ONCE I BECOME A PALETTE.
YOU KNOW?
...TO WHAT I WANT TO DO...

BUT NOW...
...WHEN IT'S TIME TO PUT PENCIL TO PAPER...
...I DON'T HAVE A SINGLE IDEA.
I THOUGHT IT'D BE A BREEZE...
...SINCE I HAD TO DO THE SAME THING LAST YEAR.

MY WORKSHOP REPORT...
...IS GOING NOWHERE.


ROWloooo

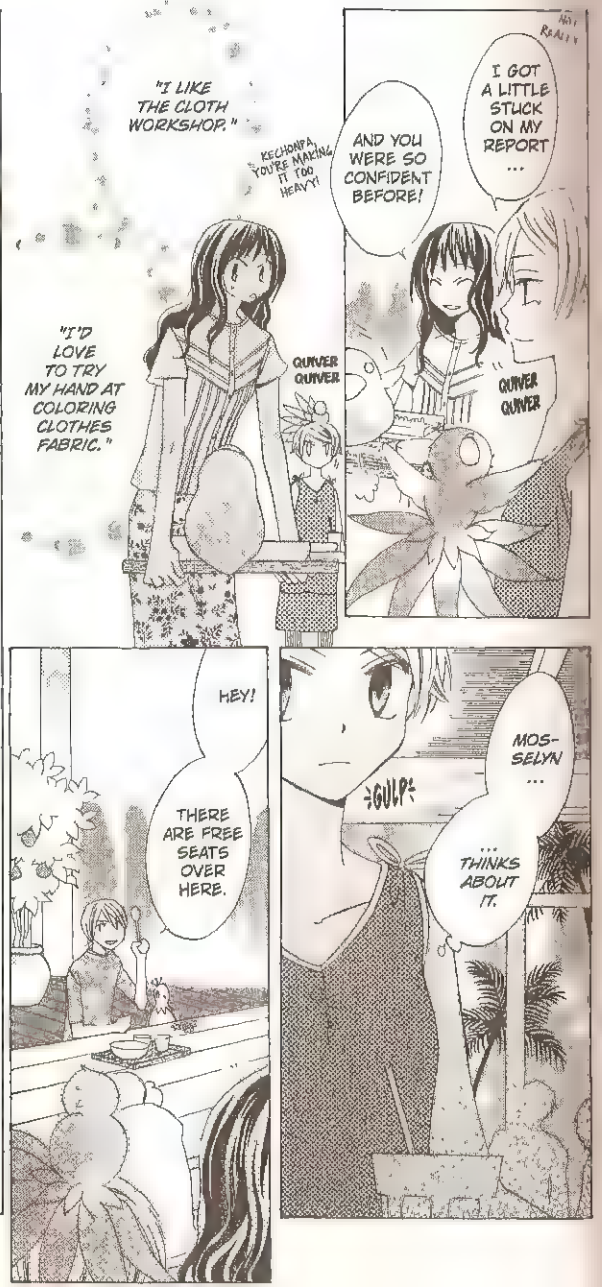


2

MERRY-GO-ROUND IN AN AMUSEMENT PARK, THAT'S THE SOLE ATTRACTION I CAN FEE- COMFORTABLE ON. I HATE ROLLER COASTERS AND OTHER THRILL RIDES, SO EVEN IF I GO TO AN AMUSEMENT PARK WITH THREE OTHER PEOPLE AND THE ROLLER COASTER HAS TWO-BY-TWO SEATS, I'LL STILL BE THE ONE THAT STAYS ON THE GROUND. GO AHEAD, CALL ME HEARTLESS, I DON'T CARE. REALLY, I'M SO SCARED BY THOSE RIDES THAT IT'S NOT ANY FUN. I HATE THE FEELING OF BEING IMPRISONED WHILE ON THOSE RIDES, LIKE NO MATTER HOW MUCH I SCREAM FOR IT TO STOP, THE OPERATOR IGNORES ME. I HAVE A FEAR OF HEIGHTS IN THE FIRST PLACE, SO THAT LEAVES OUT THE FERRIS WHEEL AS WELL. WHEN I WAS A KID, THERE WAS THIS LITTLE RIDE WHERE, IF YOU PUT IN ONE HUNDRED YEN, THE FIGURE WOULD MOVE.

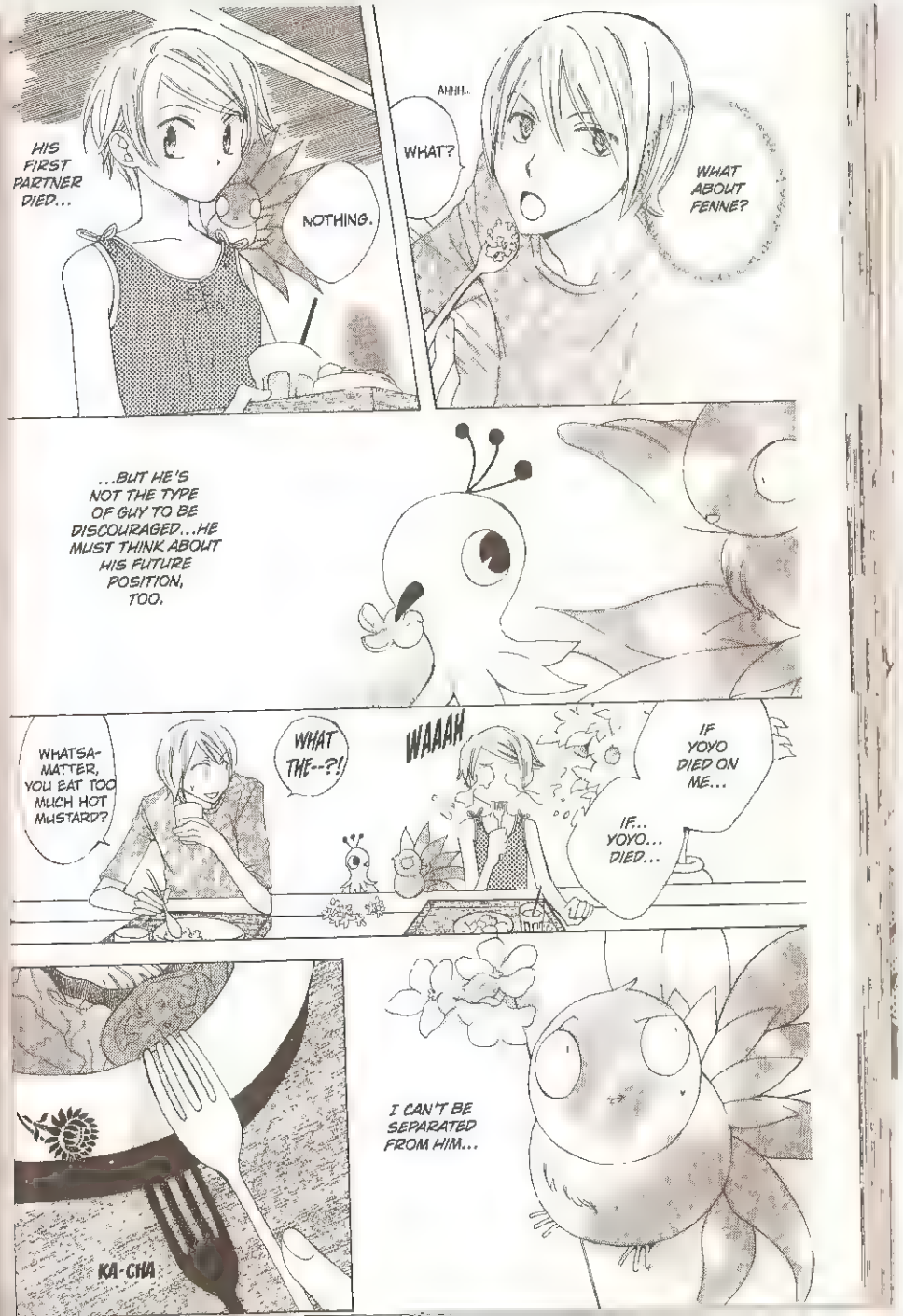
<--LIKE THIS

WELL, I PLEADED WITH MY PARENTS NOT TO PUT IN ONE HUNDRED YEN, AND TOLD THEM I'D RATHER JUST SIT ON THE THING WITHOUT HAVING IT WOBBLE AROUND. GOES TO SHOW THAT RIDES JUST AREN'T MEANT FOR ME.


"I LIKE THE CLOTH WORKSHOP."
KECHONPA, YOU'RE MAKING IT TOO HEAVY!
AND YOU WERE SO CONFIDENT BEFORE!
I GOT A LITTLE STUCK ON MY REPORT ...
"I'D LOVE TO TRY MY HAND AT COLORING CLOTHES FABRIC."
QUIVER QUIVER
QUIVER QUIVER
HEY!
THERE ARE FREE SEATS OVER HERE.
GULP
MOS-SELYN ...
... THINKS ABOUT IT.

HEH... HEH-HEH...
I DIDN'T WRITE A SINGLE LINE...
CELLO ...
IN EFFECT, I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE MYSELF AS A PROFESSIONAL PALETTE...
THIS ISN'T GOOD.
I'M TOTALLY STUMPED.
YAWWWN
WHAT, DIDN'T YOU GET ENOUGH SLEEP LAST NIGHT?
SITTING UP AT THE FRONT IN CLASS

DOES THAT MAKE ME A FAILURE AS A PALETTE?


HIS FIRST PARTNER DIED...
NOTHING.
AHHH...
WHAT?
WHAT ABOUT FENNE?
...BUT HE'S NOT THE TYPE OF GUY TO BE DISCOURAGED...HE MUST THINK ABOUT HIS FUTURE POSITION, TOO.
WHATSA-MATTER, YOU EAT TOO MUCH HOT MUSTARD?
WHAT THE--?!
WAAAH
IF YOYO DIED ON ME...
IF... YOYO... DIED...
KA-CHA
I CAN'T BE SEPARATED FROM HIM...

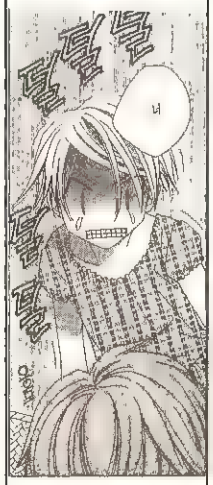
ZZZ
WAKE UP...
...CELLO.
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
HUNGHHH?!
SWISH
...YEAH.
DR. GUELL...
AH...

CELLO?!
EH?
WAA!
STEPPED ON HER!
.....?
DO
OF
ZZZZ

3

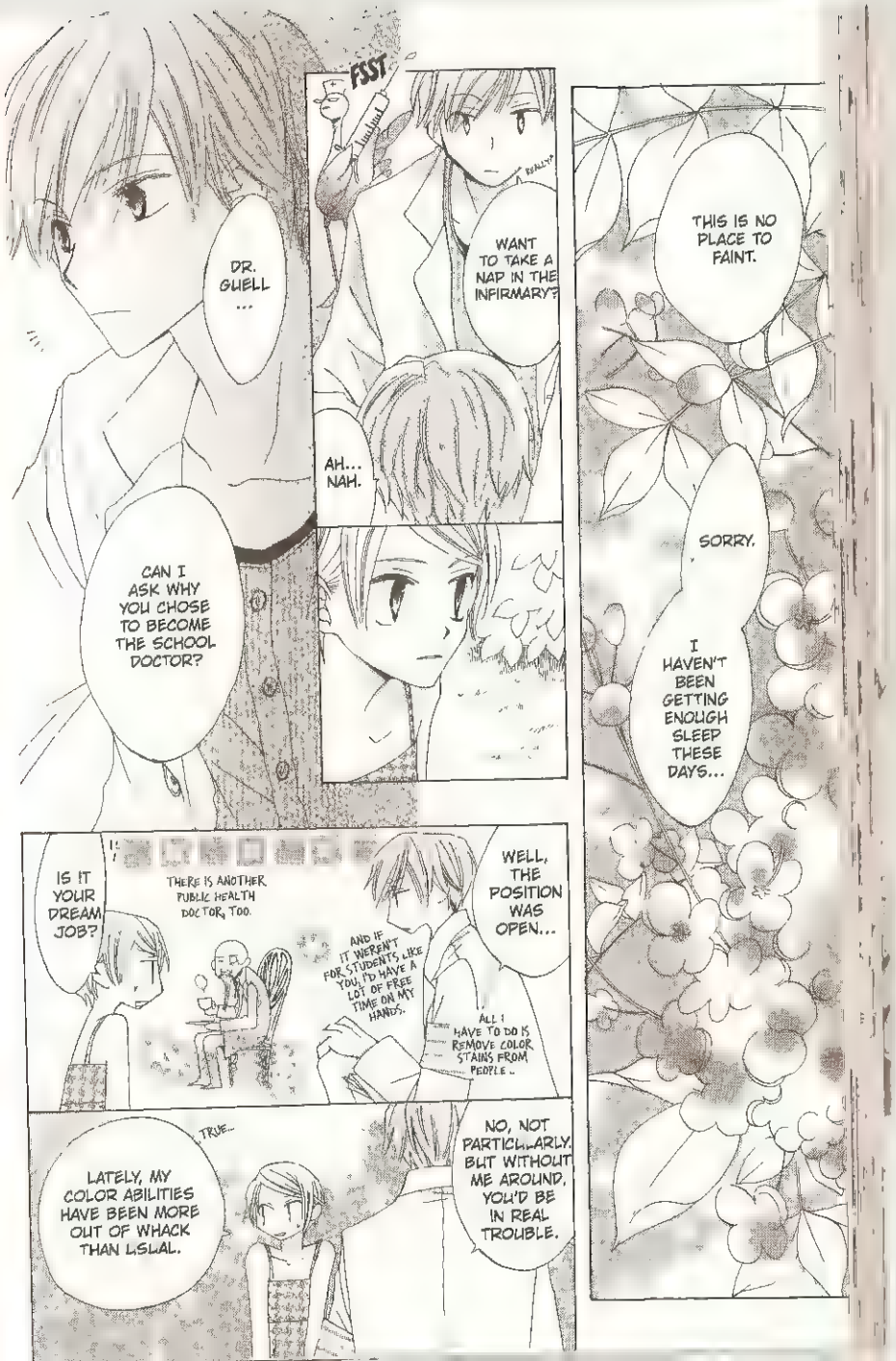
OTHER COUNTRIES (1)

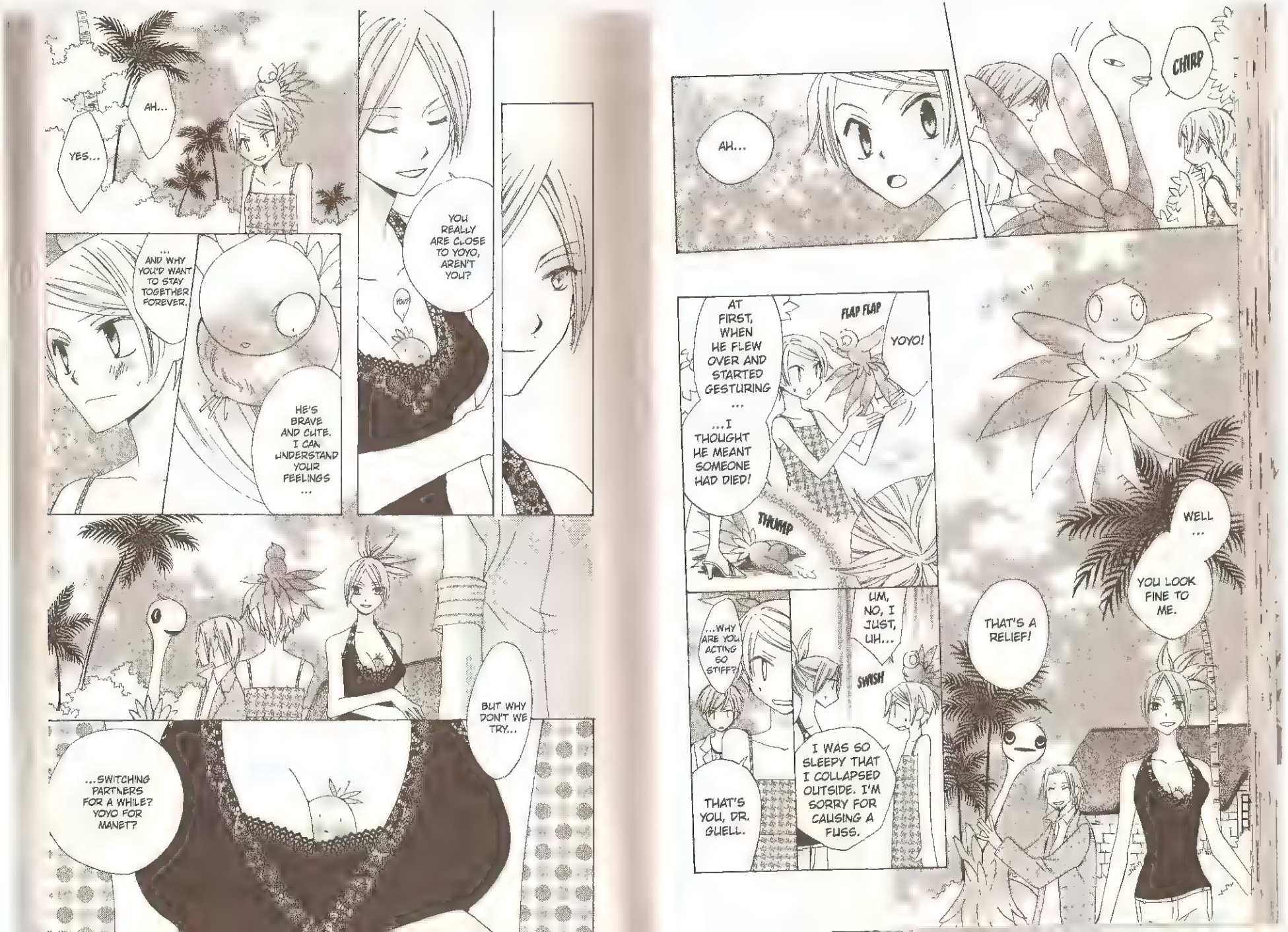
I'M ALWAYS SHUT UP IN MY HOUSE, BUT THANKS TO MY WORK, I GET TO TRAVEL TO OTHER COUNTRIES. AT PRESENT, "PALETTE" IS ALSO PUBLISHED IN KOREA AND TAIWAN. THE KOREAN VERSION LOOKS LIKE THIS:

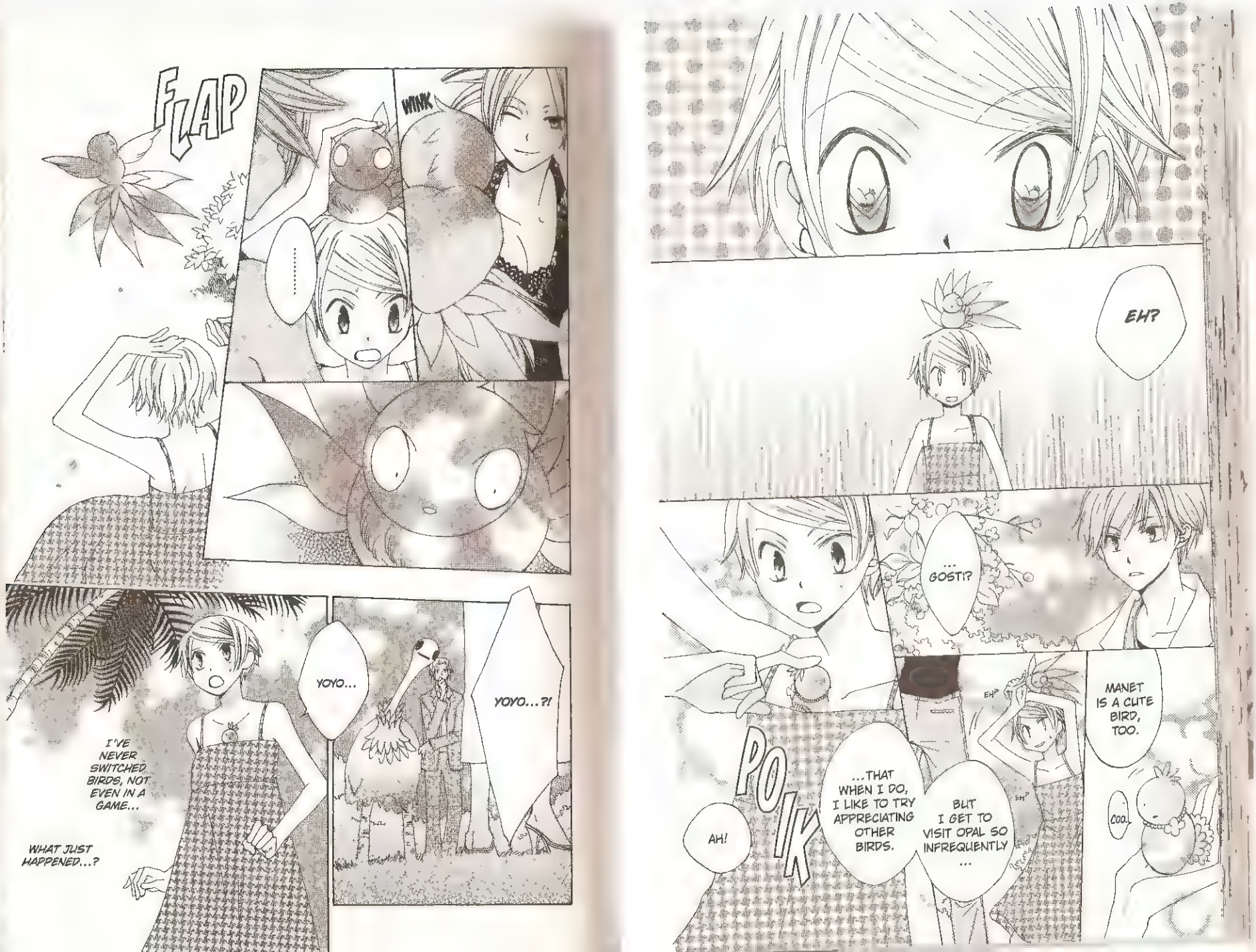


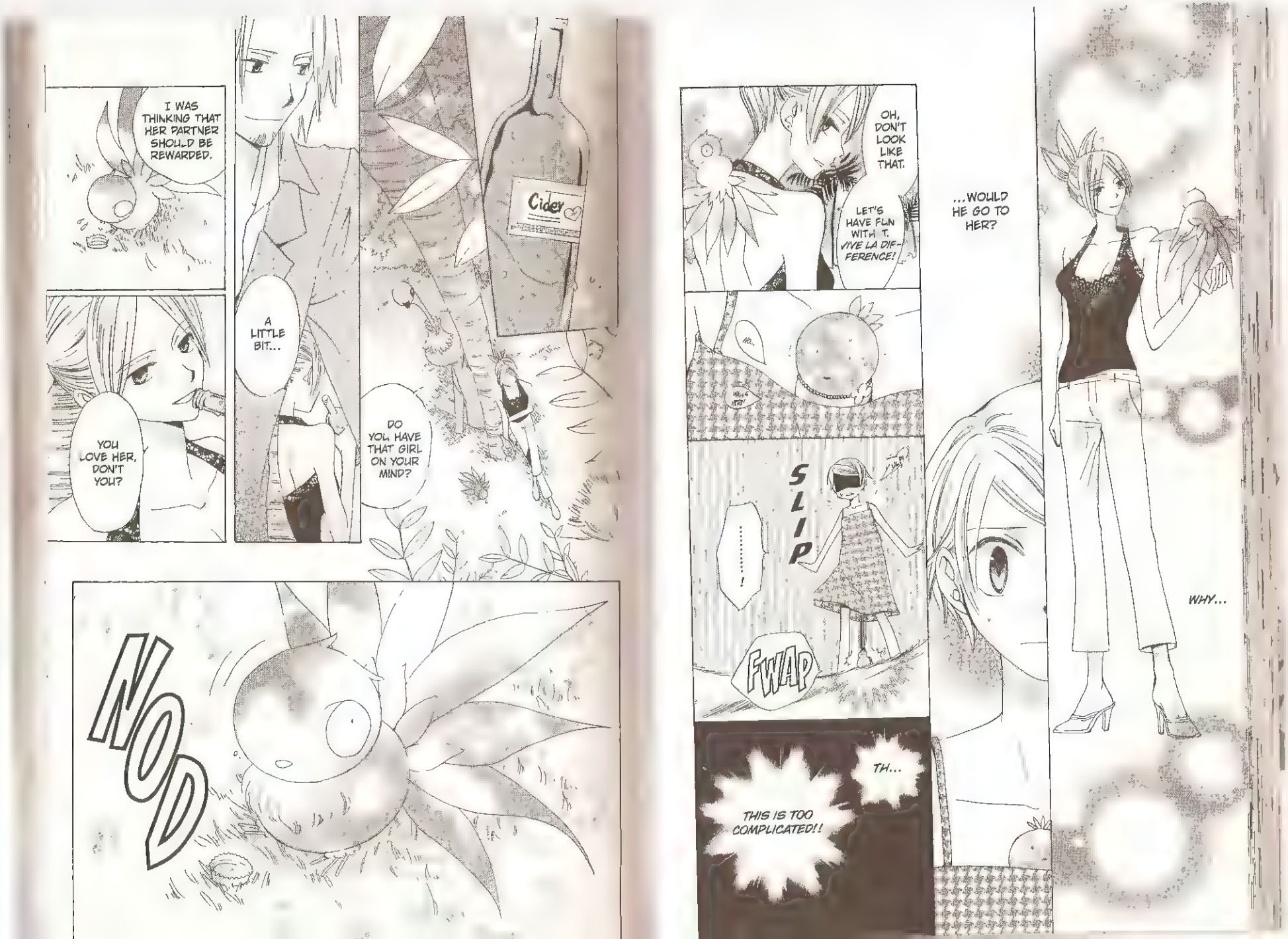
EVEN THE SOUND EFFECTS ARE IN KOREAN. I BET IT WAS A TOUGH JOB REPLACING ALL OF THE SFX.

BUT WHAT'S WRONG, CELLO?
WHY ARE YOU CURIOUS ABOUT THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN?
...DO YOU WANT TO BECOME THE SCHOOL DOCTOR?
PING
TO BE HONEST, IT'S NEVER CROSSED MY MIND.
HE WASN'T HERE WHEN I STEPPED ON YOU...
WELL, HE WAS HERE WITH ME BEFORE I PASSED OUT.
STRANGE...
GLANCE...
...HUH?
HEY, WHERE'S YOYO...?


DR. GUELL ...
FSST
REALLY?
WANT TO TAKE A NAP IN THE INFIRMARY?
AH... NAH.
CAN I ASK WHY YOU CHOSE TO BECOME THE SCHOOL DOCTOR?
IS IT YOUR DREAM JOB?
THERE IS ANOTHER PUBLIC HEALTH DOCTOR, TOO.
AND IF IT WEREN'T FOR STUDENTS LIKE YOU, I'D HAVE A LOT OF FREE TIME ON MY HANDS.
WELL, THE POSITION WAS OPEN...
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS REMOVE COLOR STAINS FROM PEOPLE...
LATELY, MY COLOR ABILITIES HAVE BEEN MORE OUT OF WHACK THAN USUAL.
TRUE...
NO, NOT PARTICULARLY. BUT WITHOUT ME AROUND, YOU'D BE IN REAL TROUBLE.
THIS IS NO PLACE TO FAINT.
SORRY.
I HAVEN'T BEEN GETTING ENOUGH SLEEP THESE DAYS...

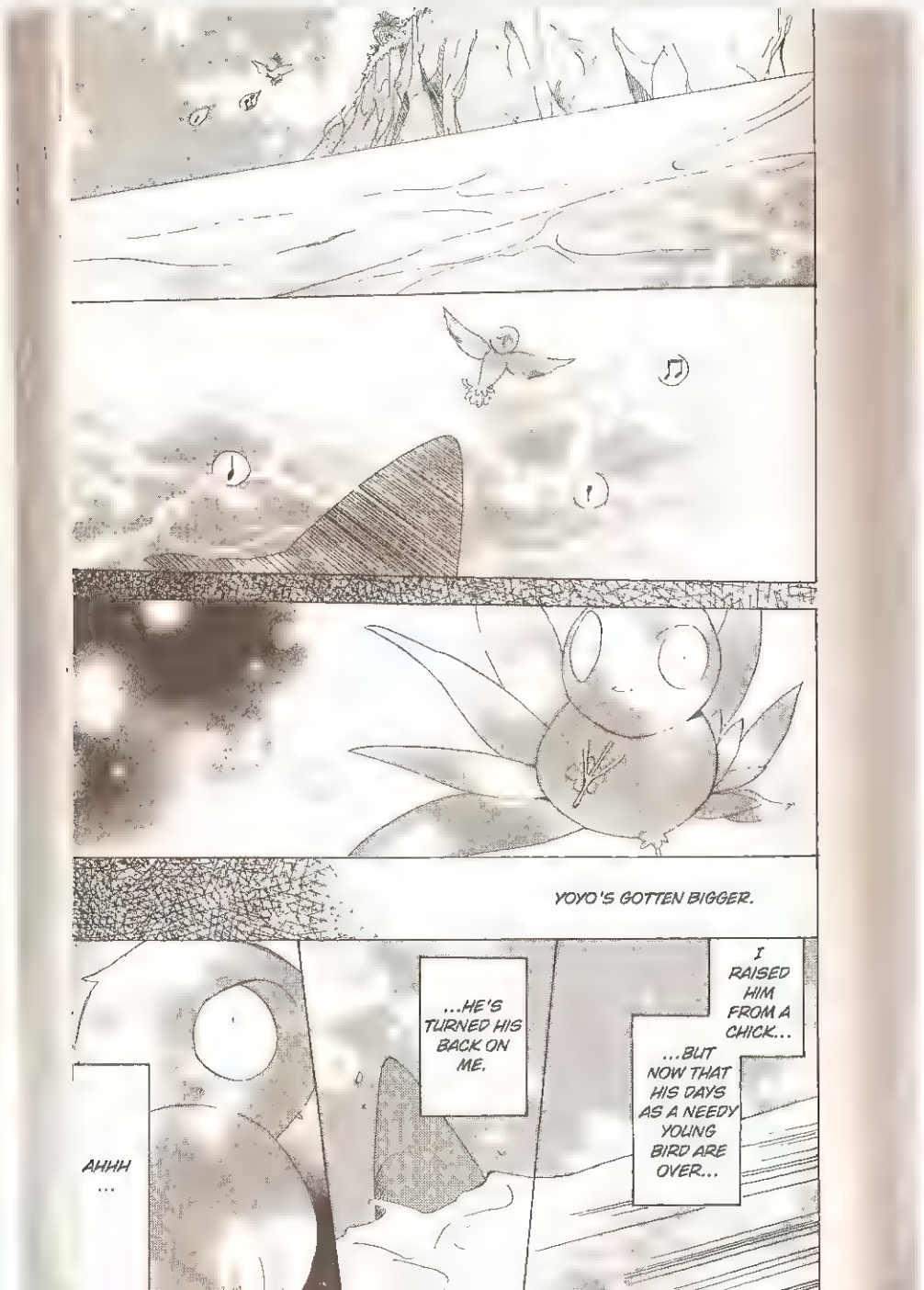

AH...
YES...
...AND WHY YOU'D WANT TO STAY TOGETHER FOREVER.
HE'S BRAVE AND CUTE. I CAN UNDERSTAND YOUR FEELINGS ...
YOU REALLY ARE CLOSE TO YOYO, AREN'T YOU?
YOU?
...SWITCHING PARTNERS FOR A WHILE? YOYO FOR MANET?
BUT WHY DON'T WE TRY...
AH...
CHIRP
AT FIRST, WHEN HE FLEW OVER AND STARTED GESTURING ...
...I THOUGHT HE MEANT SOMEONE HAD DIED!
FLAP FLAP
YOYO!
THUMP
...WHY ARE YOU ACTING SO STIFF?
UM, NO, I JUST, UH...
SWISH
I WAS SO SLEEPY THAT I COLLAPSED OUTSIDE. I'M SORRY FOR CAUSING A FUSS.
THAT'S YOU, DR. GUELL.
WELL ...
YOU LOOK FINE TO ME.
THAT'S A RELIEF!


FLAP
WINK
.....
YOYO...
YOYO...?!
I'VE NEVER SWITCHED BIRDS, NOT EVEN IN A GAME...
WHAT JUST HAPPENED...?
EH?
... GOSTI?
MANET IS A CUTE BIRD, TOO.
COO.
EH?
EH?
POKK
AH!
...THAT WHEN I DO, I LIKE TO TRY APPRECIATING OTHER BIRDS.
BUT I GET TO VISIT OPAL SO INFREQUENTLY ...


I WAS THINKING THAT HER PARTNER SHOULD BE REWARDED.
YOU LOVE HER, DON'T YOU?
A LITTLE BIT...
DO YOU HAVE THAT GIRL ON YOUR MIND?
Cider
NOD
OH, DON'T LOOK LIKE THAT.
LET'S HAVE FUN WITH T. VIVE LA DIFFERENCE!
HM...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?!
SLIP
.....!
FWAP
TH...
THIS IS TOO COMPLICATED!!
...WOULD HE GO TO HER?
WHY...

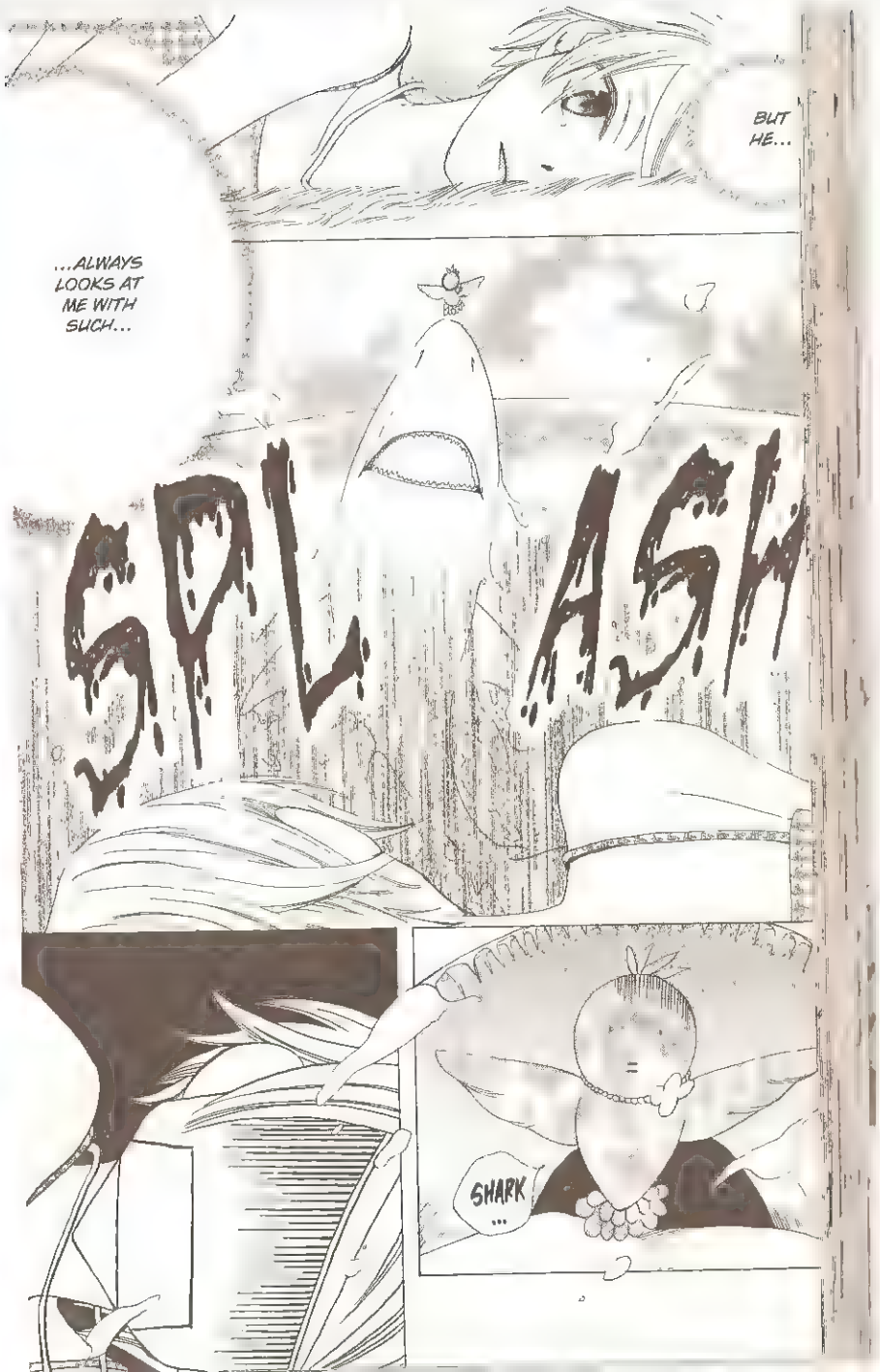
I THOUGHT FOR SURE HE WOULDN'T PLAY ALONG WITH HER IDEA.
SO WHY DID HE DO IT?
COO..
I WONDER IF YOYO IS LIKE THIS RIGHT NOW...
IS IT BECAUSE I'M SUCH A WASHOUT?
BECAUSE SHE'S SUCH A MASTER?
I THOUGHT HE FELT THE SAME WAY AS ME... THAT HE WANTED US TO BE INSEPARABLE...

SO THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY, DR. GUELL.
I FEEL ABANDONED.
HOW CAN I PUT IT...?

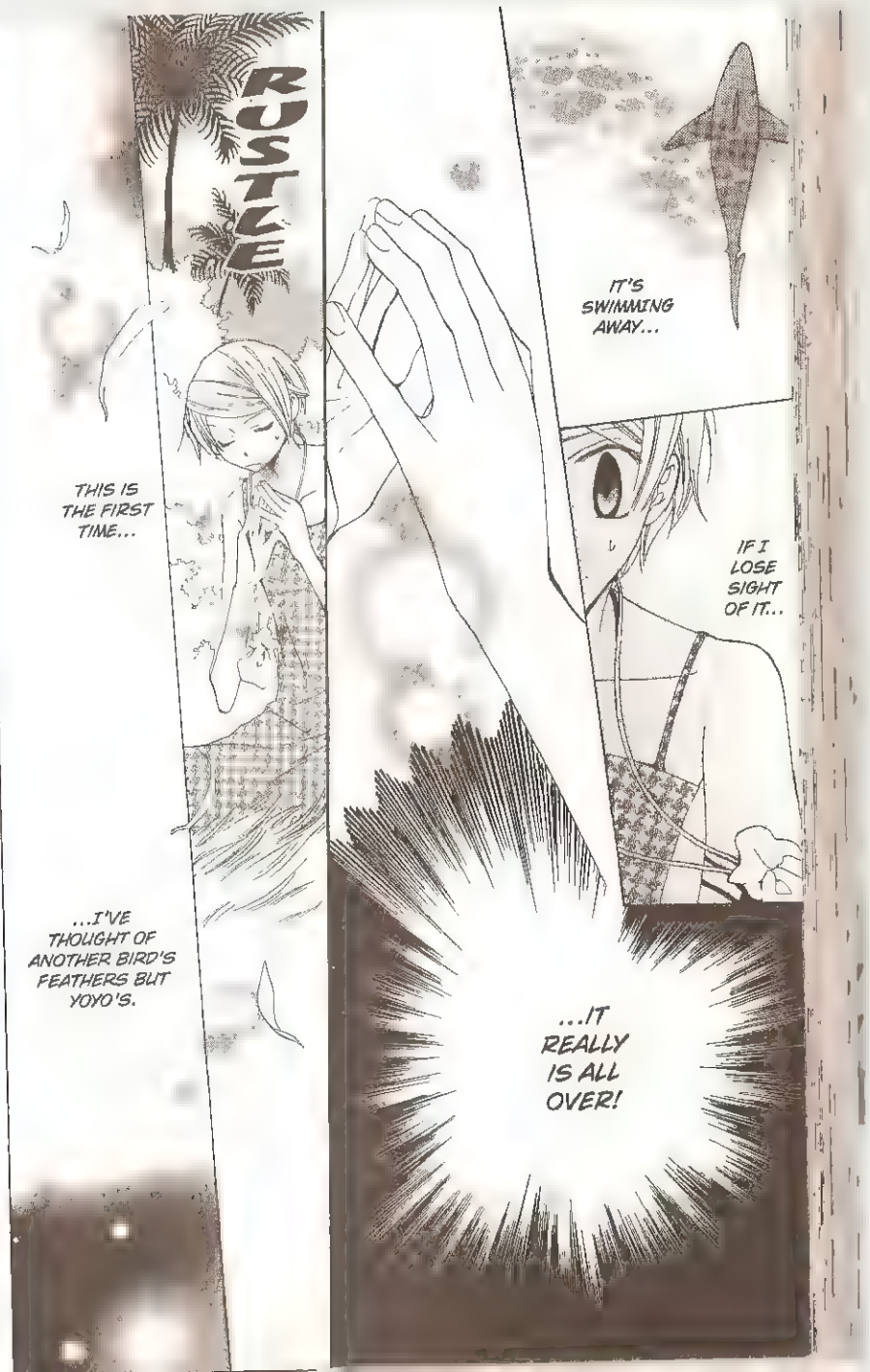

YOYO'S GOTTEN BIGGER.
...HE'S TURNED HIS BACK ON ME.
I RAISED HIM FROM A CHICK...
...BUT NOW THAT HIS DAYS AS A NEEDY YOUNG BIRD ARE OVER...
AHHH...

BORED...
BORED...
BORED
SPLISH
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
BLIP...

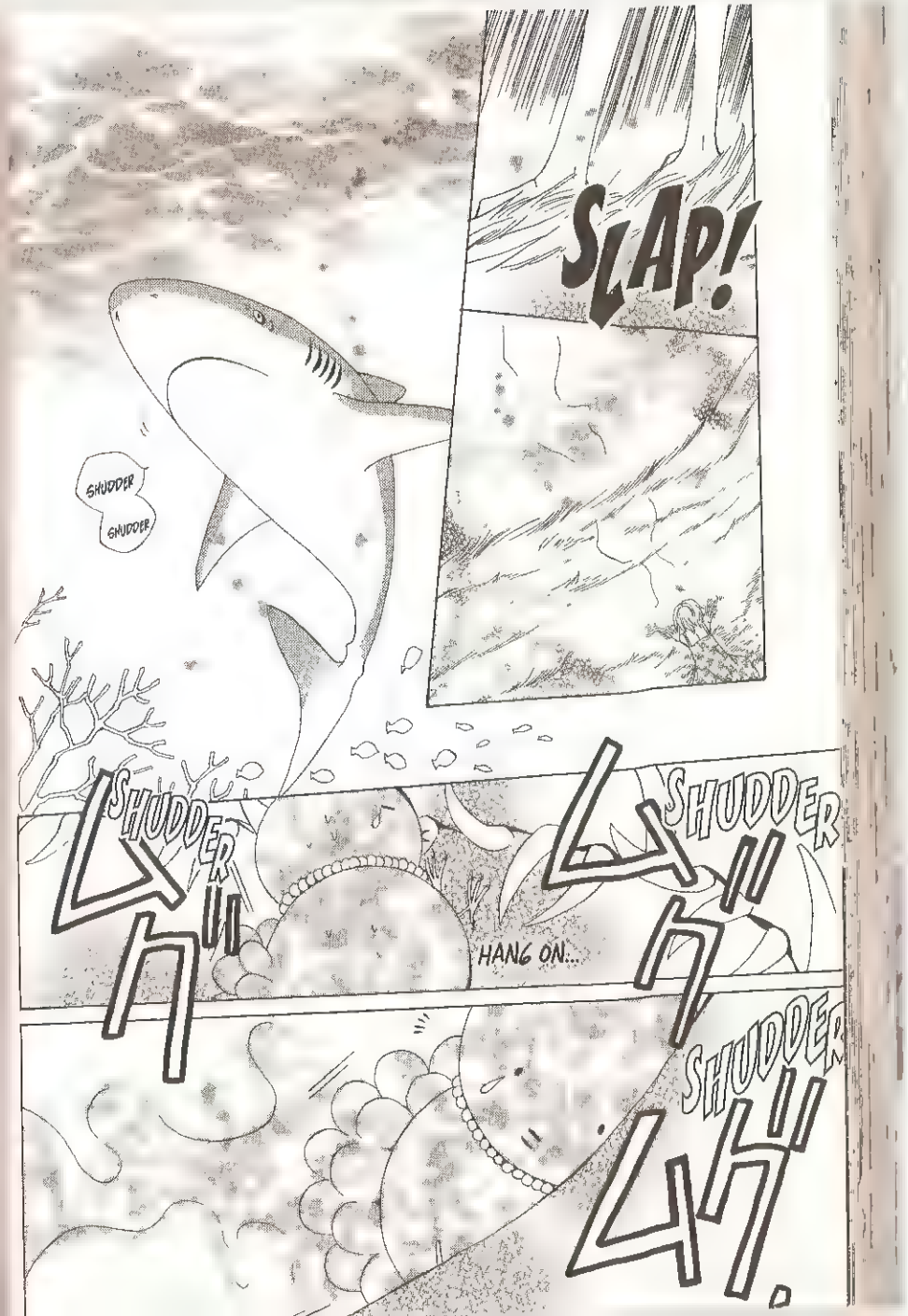
MANET!!
M...
GULP!
THE SHARKS FROM BEFORE MUST STILL BE HANGING AROUND!
WHAT SHOULD I DO?!
THIS IS ALL MY FAULT! I SHOULD'VE BEEN MORE CAREFUL!
I'M DISGUSTED WITH MYSELF...
HOW COULD I HAVE LET THIS HAPPEN?!


BUT HE...
...ALWAYS LOOKS AT ME WITH SUCH...
SPLASH
SHARK ...

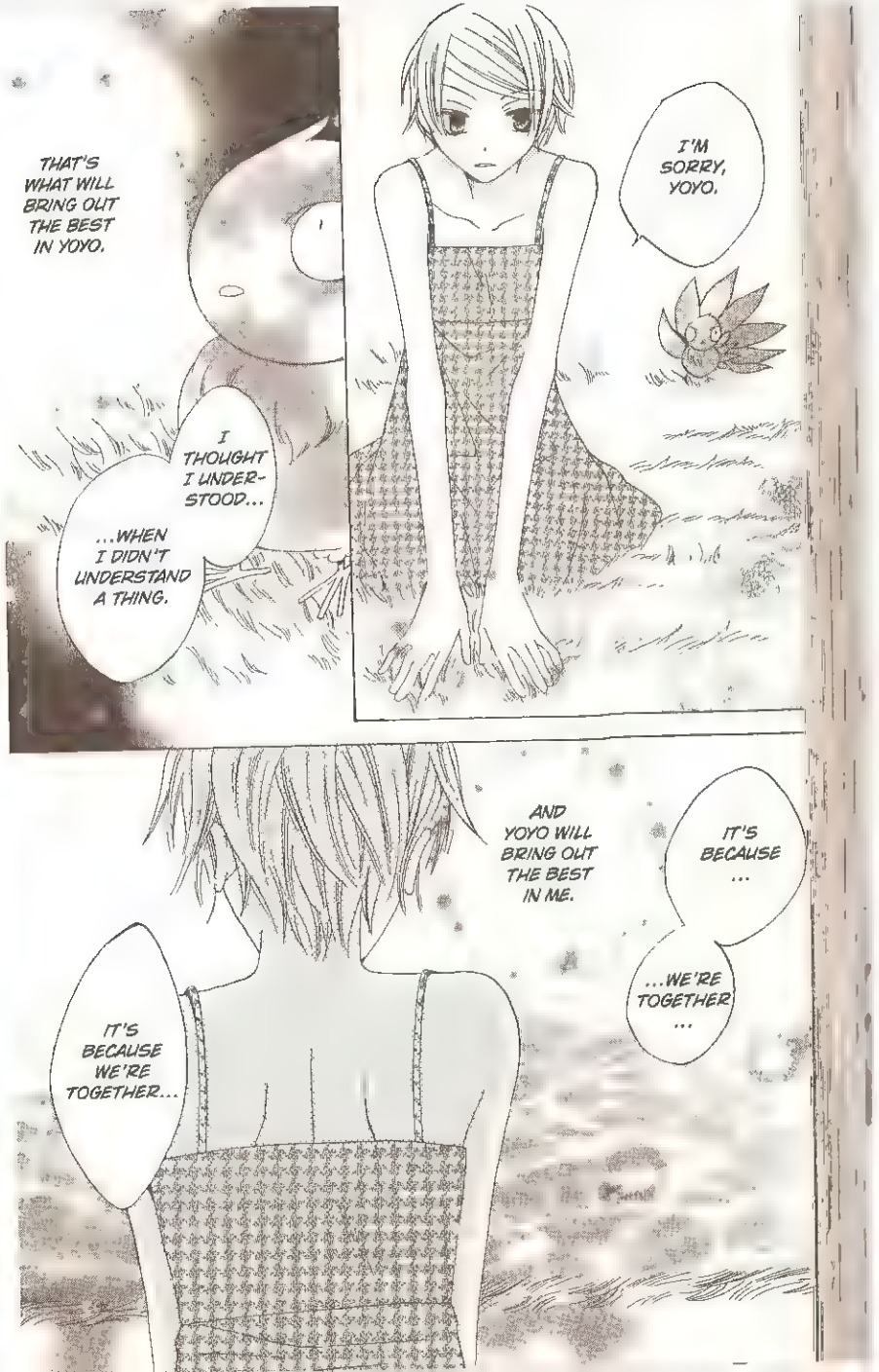
EH?
HE GOT SWALLOWED BY A SHARK...
I'M SORRY. IT HAPPENED WHEN I WASN'T WATCHING.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO MANET?
EHHH?!
RIGHT NOW, I'M DRAWING OUT MANET'S COLORS...
...TO TELL ME EXACTLY WHERE THE SHARK IS.
CAN I DO IT?
CAN I...
GET A NET...
...FROM THE SHIP.
ALL RIGHT!
...CALL FORTH THE COLORS OF THE FEATHERS ...
... THAT ARE BURNED IN THE BACK OF MY MIND?
SHE'S USING HER SPECIAL TECHNIQUE ...?

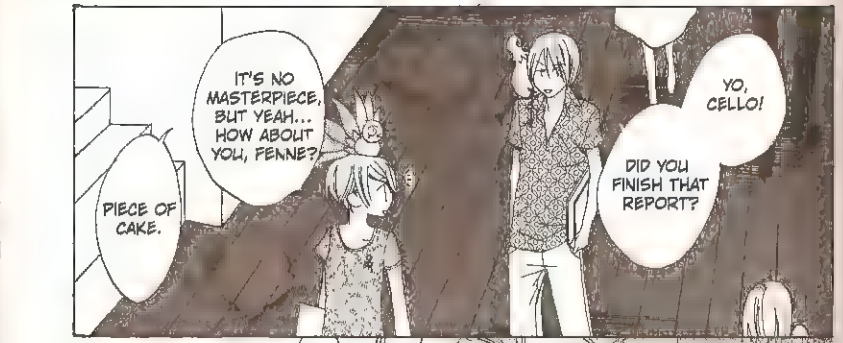

RUSTLE
IT'S SWIMMING AWAY...
IF I LOSE SIGHT OF IT...
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME...
...I'VE THOUGHT OF ANOTHER BIRD'S FEATHERS BUT YOYO'S.
...IT REALLY IS ALL OVER!

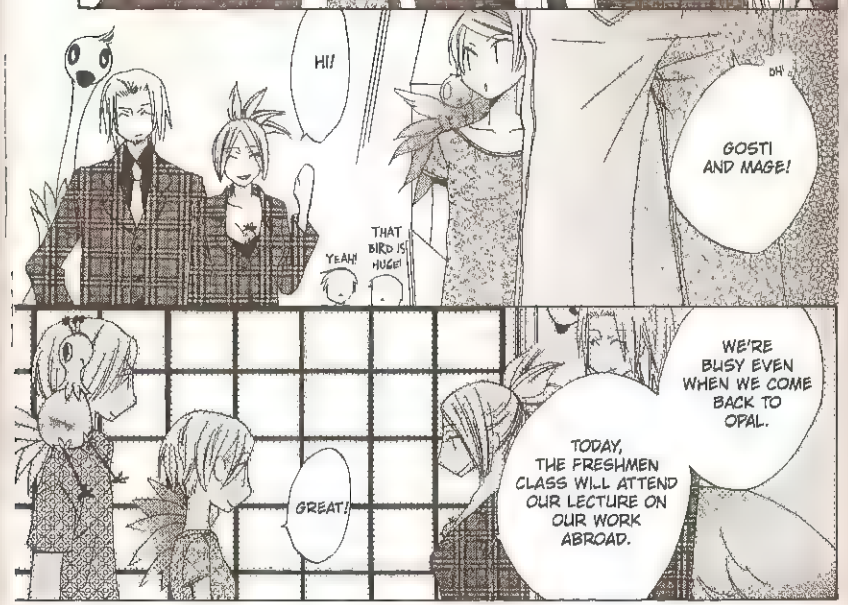
QUIVER
QUIVER
TOO WEAK ...
MORE ...
BUT...
DRIP
DRIP
PHISH...
...I'M STILL A PALETTE.
...EVEN IF..
...MY PARTNER ISN'T YOYO...

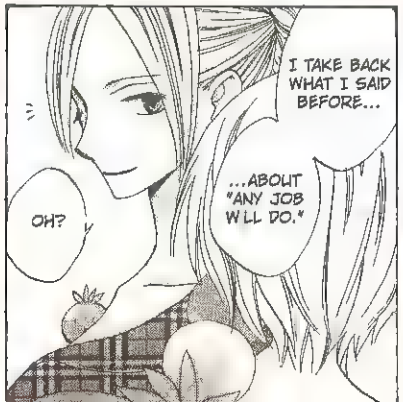

SLAP!
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
HANG ON...

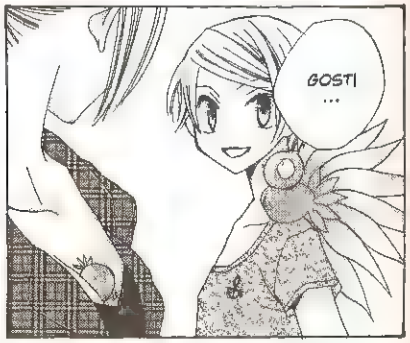
BLOOSH
FOOOOOO
OHHH!!
...THAT I CAN CARVE OUT MY OWN PATH.
PWAP
LET'S BE TOGETHER...


THAT'S WHAT WILL BRING OUT THE BEST IN YOYO.
I'M SORRY, YOYO.
I THOUGHT I UNDERSTOOD...
...WHEN I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND A THING.
AND YOYO WILL BRING OUT THE BEST IN ME.
IT'S BECAUSE ...
...WE'RE TOGETHER ...
IT'S BECAUSE WE'RE TOGETHER...

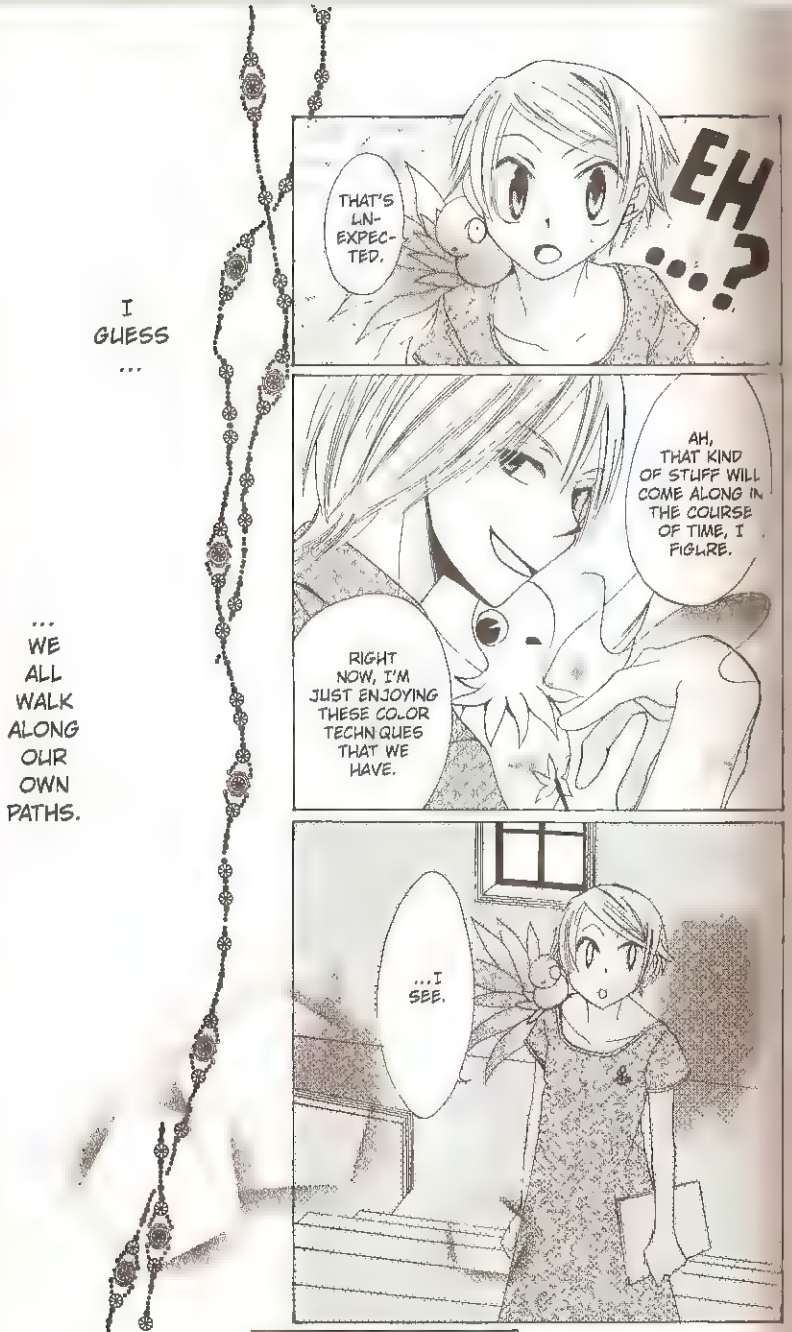

IT'S NO MASTERPIECE, BUT YEAH... HOW ABOUT YOU, FENNE?
PIECE OF CAKE.
YO, CELLO!
DID YOU FINISH THAT REPORT?

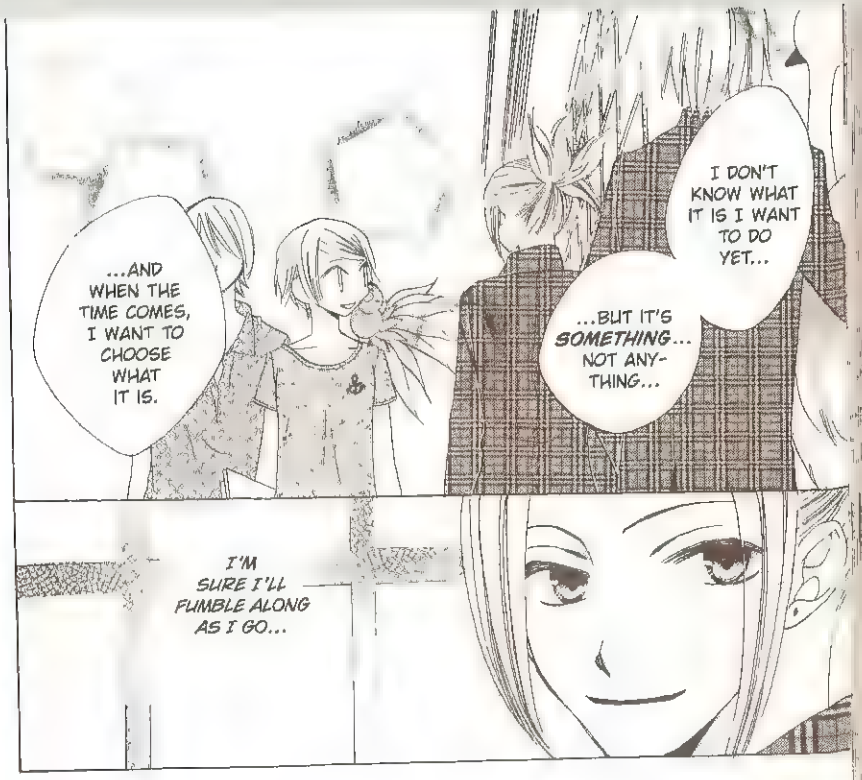

HI!
OH!
GOSTI AND MAGE!
YEAH!
THAT BIRD IS HUGE!
WE'RE BUSY EVEN WHEN WE COME BACK TO OPAL.
TODAY, THE FRESHMEN CLASS WILL ATTEND OUR LECTURE ON OUR WORK ABROAD.
GREAT!


I TAKE BACK WHAT I SAID BEFORE...
...ABOUT "ANY JOB WILL DO."
OH?


GOSTI ...

FINISHED!
KA-CHUNK!
THUMP THUMP


I GUESS ...
... WE ALL WALK ALONG OUR OWN PATHS.
EH...?
THAT'S UN-EXPEC-TED.
AH, THAT KIND OF STUFF WILL COME ALONG IN THE COURSE OF TIME, I FIGURE.
RIGHT NOW, I'M JUST ENJOYING THESE COLOR TECHNIQUES THAT WE HAVE.
...I SEE.
EPISODE 12: THE END


I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS I WANT TO DO YET...
...BUT IT'S SOMETHING... NOT ANY-THING...
...AND WHEN THE TIME COMES, I WANT TO CHOOSE WHAT IT IS.
I'M SURE I'LL FUMBLE ALONG AS I GO...
...BUT I'M GOING TO GO MY OWN WAY.

FENNE, YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO DO ONCE YOU BECOME A PALETTE...
HEH-HEH
... RIGHT?
NOPE. NOT YET.
LAST TIME, YOU WERE TALKING TO HER ABOUT THE SAME SUBJECT, WEREN'T YOU?
AH!
YOU HEARD THAT?

じゅうにひそく

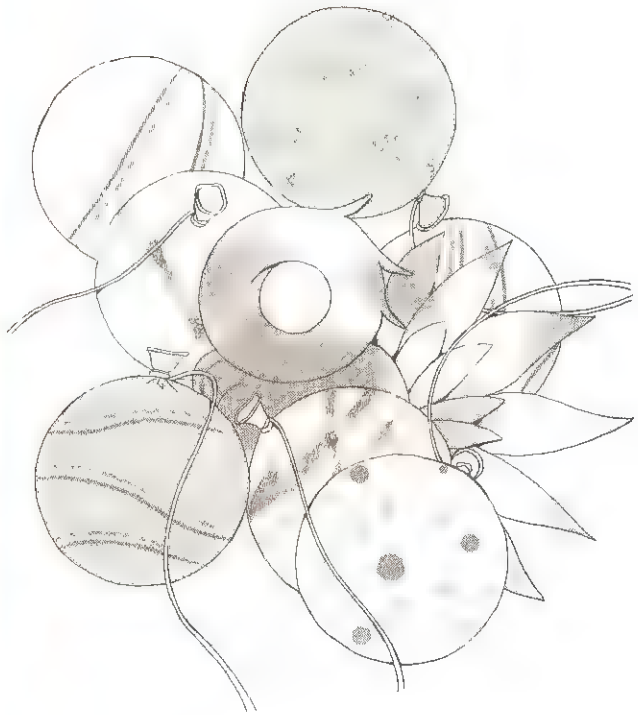
十二秘色のパレット

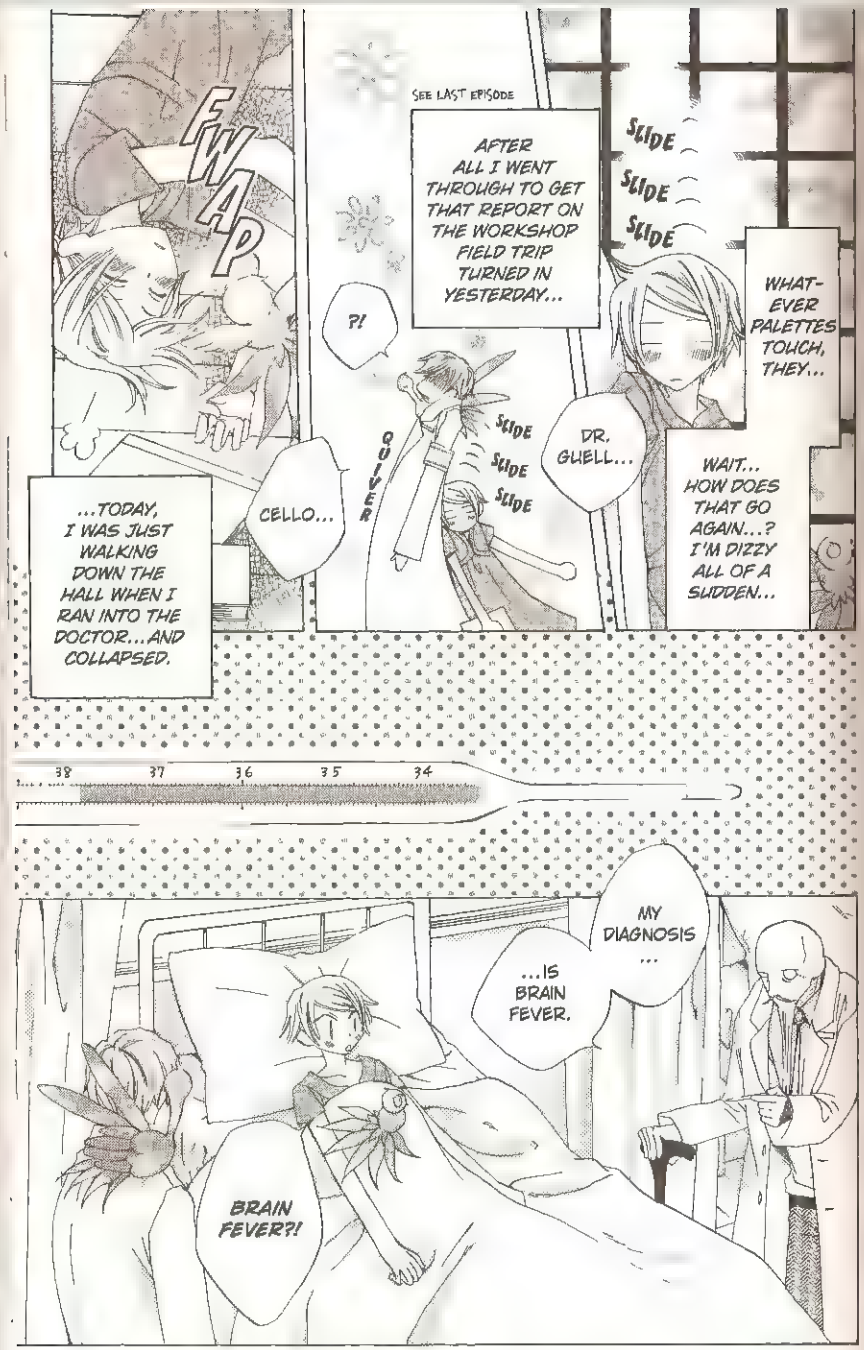
EPISODE 13

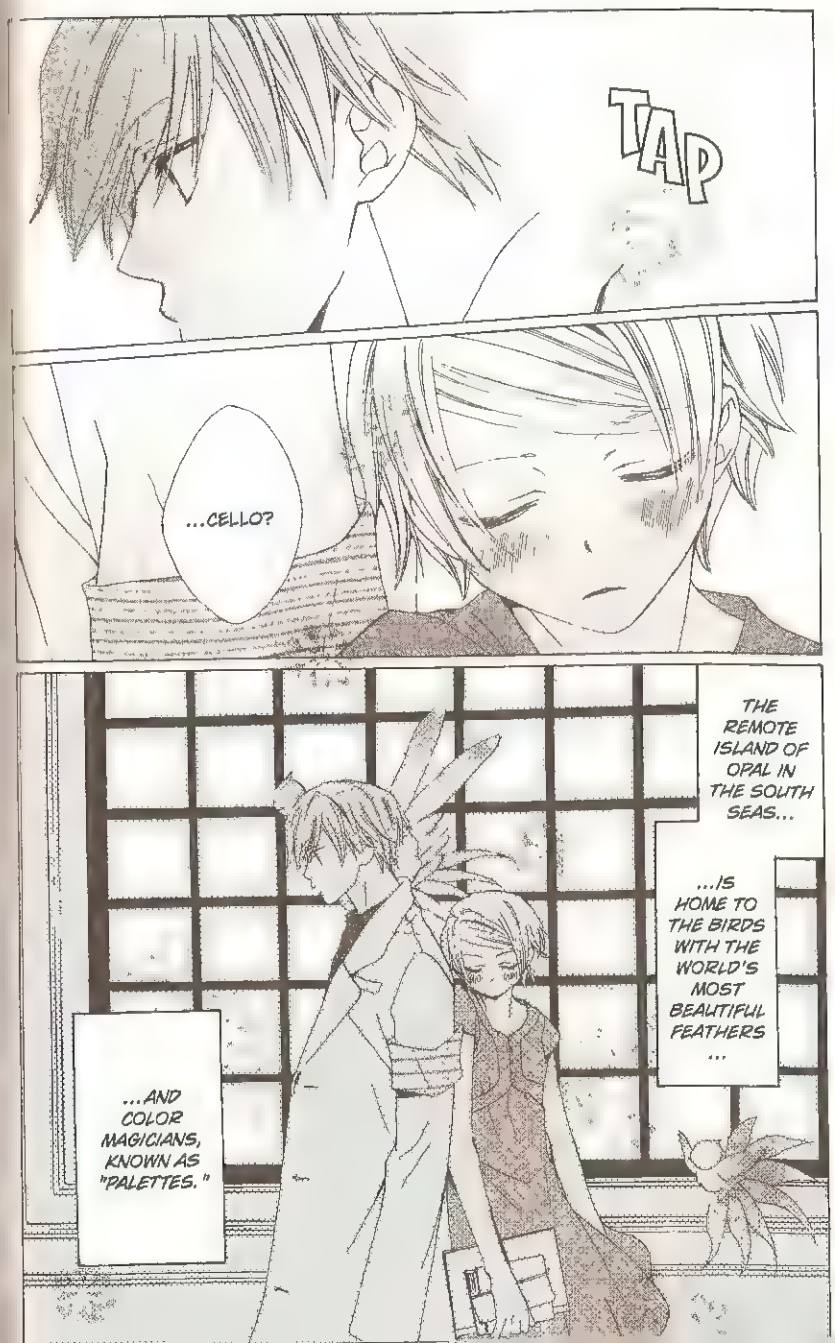
The Palette of 12 Secret Colors

Episode 14 Preview Cut

Yoyo became even more hidden here than I was aiming for



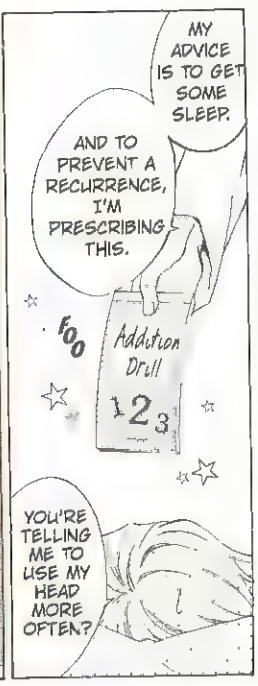

SWAP
SEE LAST EPISODE
AFTER ALL I WENT THROUGH TO GET THAT REPORT ON THE WORKSHOP FIELD TRIP TURNED IN YESTERDAY...
SLIDE
SLIDE
SLIDE
?!
WHAT-EVER PALETTES TOUCH, THEY...
QUIVER
SLIDE
SLIDE
SLIDE
DR. GUELL...
CELLO...
...TODAY, I WAS JUST WALKING DOWN THE HALL WHEN I RAN INTO THE DOCTOR...AND COLLAPSED.
WAIT... HOW DOES THAT GO AGAIN...? I'M DIZZY ALL OF A SUDDEN...
38
37
36
35
34
MY DIAGNOSIS ...
...IS BRAIN FEVER.
BRAIN FEVER?!

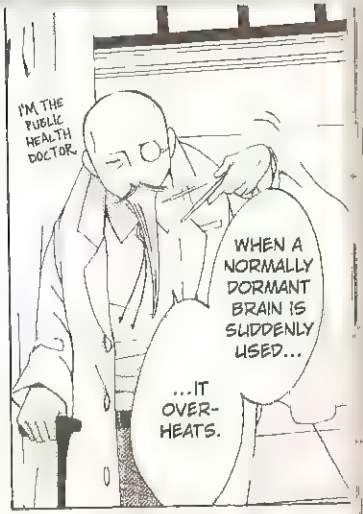

TAP
...CELLO?
THE REMOTE ISLAND OF OPAL IN THE SOUTH SEAS...
...IS HOME TO THE BIRDS WITH THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL FEATHERS ...
...AND COLOR MAGICIANS, KNOWN AS "PALETTES."

MMM, I WOULDN'T CALL SOMEONE WHO GETS A FEVER FROM WRITING A REPORT "FINE."
IT TOOK ME A LONG TIME TO FIGURE OUT WHAT I WANTED TO SAY.
TCH!

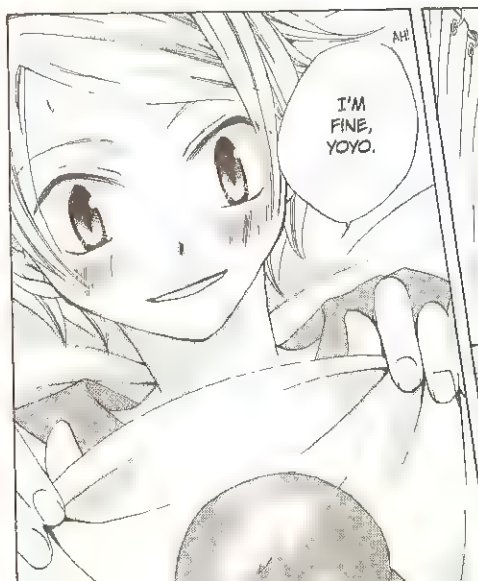
I'LL BRING YOU A WATER PILLOW.
HOW'S YOUR THROAT? DRY?
IS THERE ...
... ANYTHING YOU NEED?
OKAY, THEN ...
I DO HAVE ONE FAVOR...
AH ...
A LITTLE ...
EH?

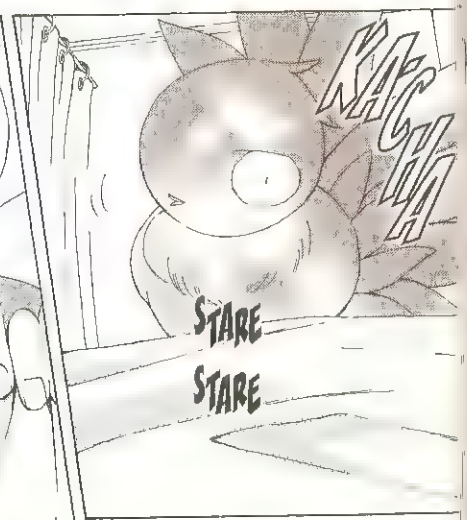
MY WORK HERE IS DONE.
I'M GOING TO HAVE TEA WITH THE PRINCIPAL


MY ADVICE IS TO GET SOME SLEEP.
AND TO PREVENT A RECURRENCE, I'M PRESCRIBING THIS.
Addition Drill
1 2 3
YOU'RE TELLING ME TO USE MY HEAD MORE OFTEN?


I'M THE PUBLIC HEALTH DOCTOR.
WHEN A NORMALLY DORMANT BRAIN IS SUDDENLY USED...
...IT OVER-HEATS.

SORRY ...
I'M AP-PALLED.


AH
I'M FINE, YOYO.

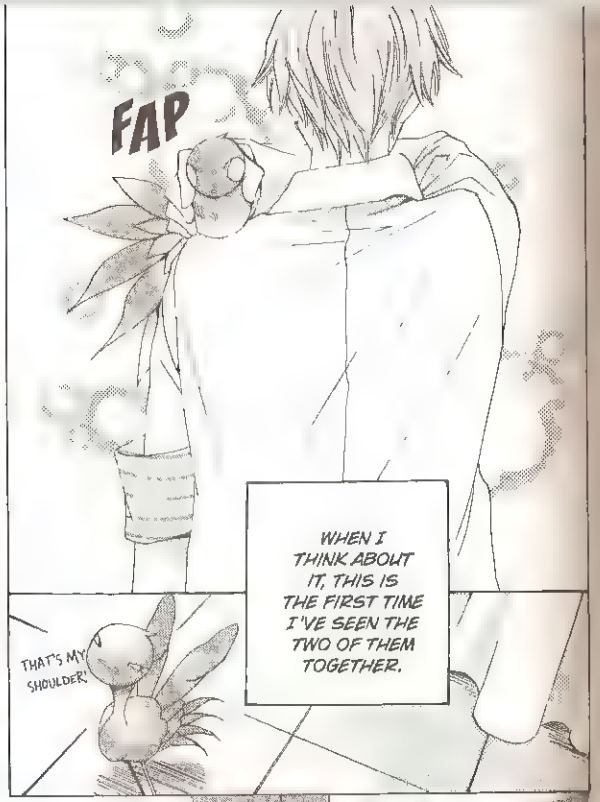

KACHA
STARE
STARE

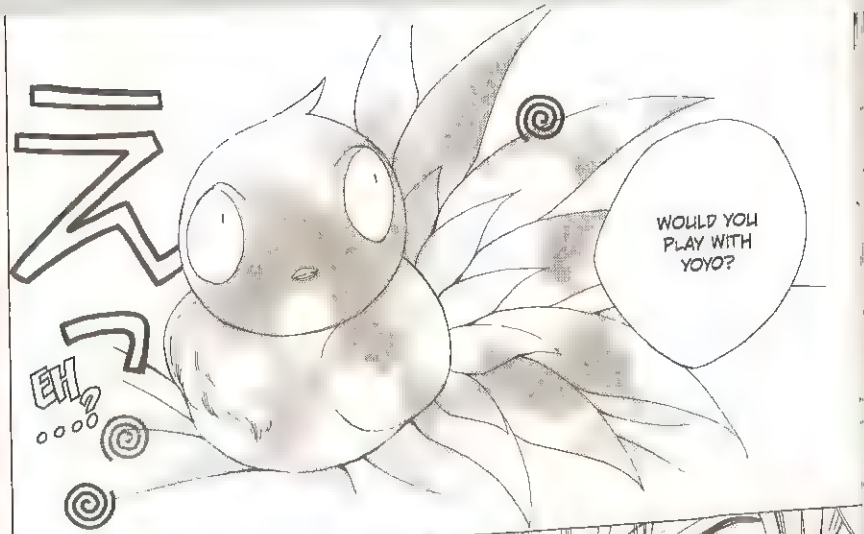
4

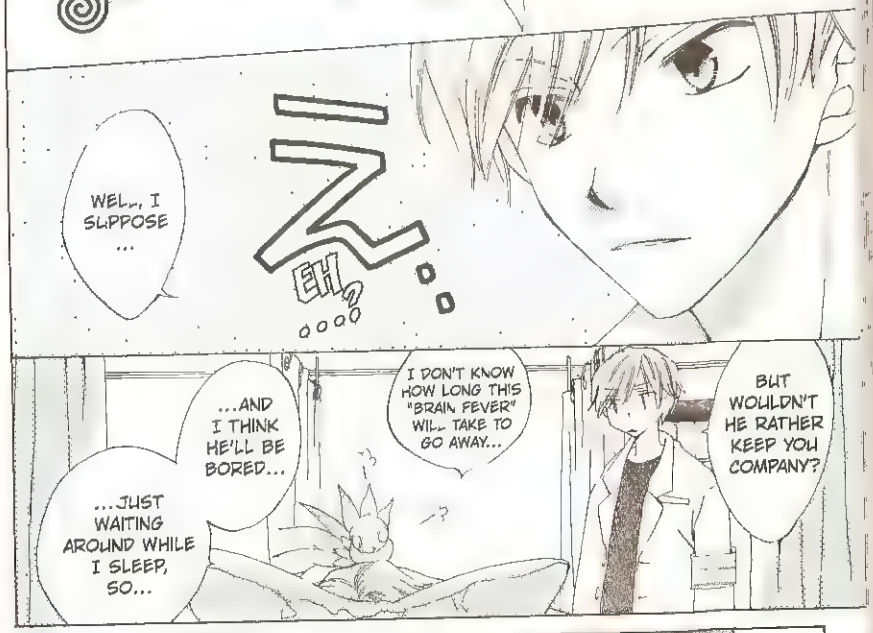
OTHER COUNTRIES (2)

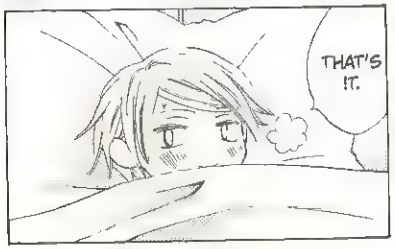
THIS IS THE CHINESE VERSION.

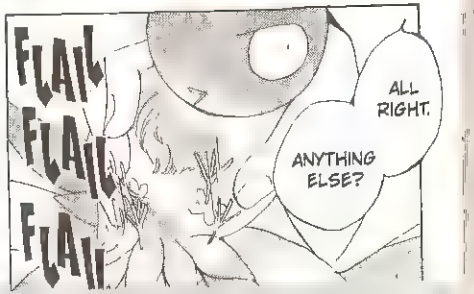
IN THE CHINESE, NO HONORIFICS LIKE "SAN" OR "KUN" ARE USED. BY THE WAY, EVEN MY SMALL TALK HERE IS TRANSLATED. I APOLOGIZE FOR ALWAYS WRITING ABOUT TRIVIAL MATTERS.


FAP
WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN THE TWO OF THEM TOGETHER.
THAT'S MY SHOULDER!
COME ON! I ALREADY ASKED YOU TO HELP OUT WITH OUR SPECIAL LECTURE, REMEMBER?!
GOSTI AND MAGE...
I ACTUALLY HAVE SOMETHING TO DO
YANK
SWI
SH!!
GUELL!!




WELL, I SUPPOSE...
EH,?
BUT WOULDN'T HE RATHER KEEP YOU COMPANY?
I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG THIS "BRAIN FEVER" WILL TAKE TO GO AWAY...
...AND I THINK HE'LL BE BORED...
...JUST WAITING AROUND WHILE I SLEEP, SO...



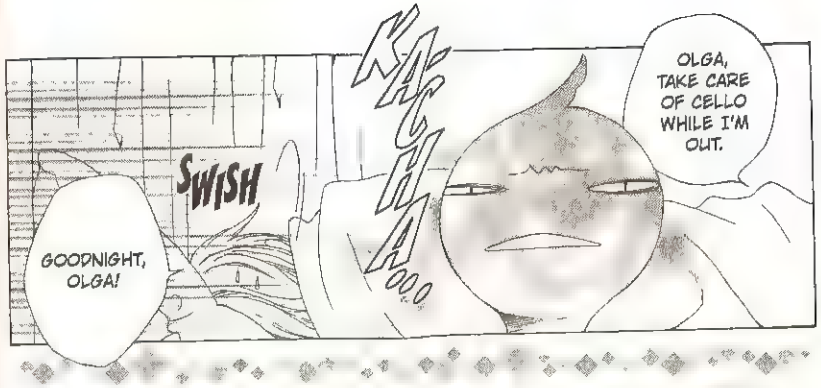


5

LIKES AND DISLIKES:

I DON'T LIKE EGGS IN GENERAL, BUT DEPENDING ON THE METHOD OF COOKING, MY LEVEL OF DISLIKE DIFFERS. THERE'S NO WAY I'LL EAT FRIED EGGS, BOILED EGGS (SOFT OR HARD-BOILED) OR EGG ON RICE. HOWEVER, I CAN EAT *TAMAGOYAKI* (A SWEETENED, SOY-FLAVORED OMELET) AND OTHER KINDS OF OMELETS. WITH SUKIYAKI, I'LL USE A RAW EGG, BUT I'VE NEVER ORDERED *TSUKIMI SOBA* (NOODLES WITH AN EGG ON TOP). FOR ME THE KEY POINT IS WHETHER THE EGG'S FLAVOR TAKES PRECEDENCE IN THE DISH OR WHETHER THE OTHER FLAVORS ARE STRONG ENOUGH SO THAT I DON'T MIND THE EGG.

EH-HEH-HEH
NOD
DURING THE BREAK, I'M GOING TO BUY CELLO LUNCH...
DO YOU KNOW OF ANY FOOD SHE DISLIKES?
YOU'RE ASKING ME IF I KNOW?
I HAVE NO IDEA.
NOPE
THE ONE TIME I ATE WITH CELLO WAS AT HER HOUSE...
... DURING MY FAMILY VISIT.

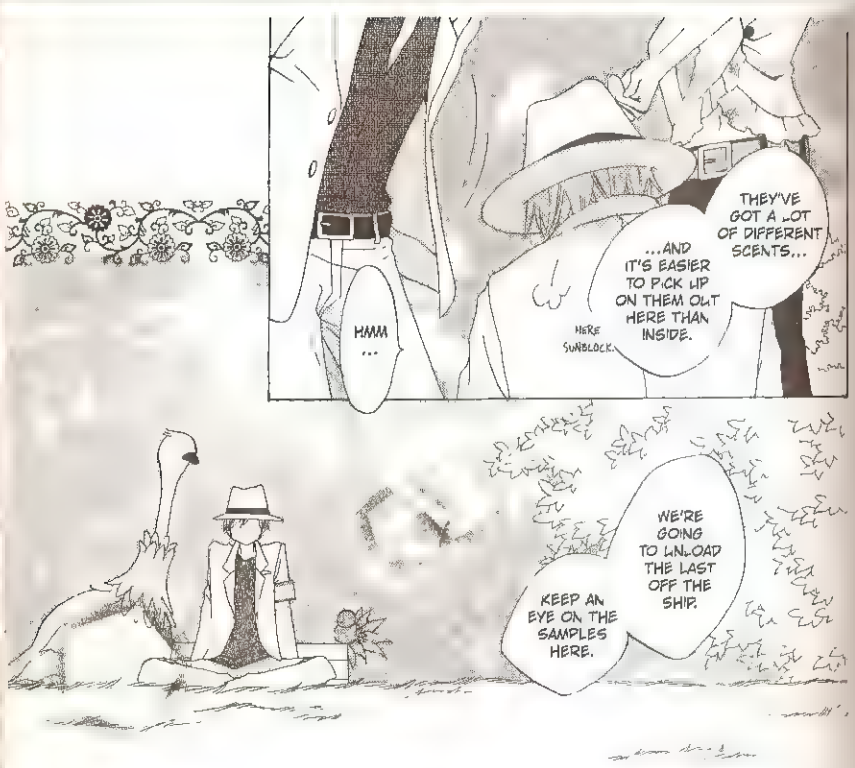


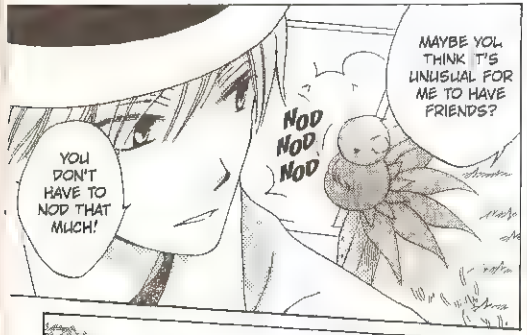
NOT ONLY THAT ...
KA-CHA
I'M COMING IN.
NOK NOK
I GUESS IT'S ONLY NATURAL, THOUGH.
YOYO LOVES CELLO...
...WHICH WOULD MAKE US SOMETHING LIKE BROTHERS-IN-LAW.
IF HE'S REALIZED THAT I'VE OPENED MY HEART TO HER...
...HIS ATTITUDE MAKES ALL THE MORE SENSE.
THUMP
GU ...
... MMM ...
SMACK

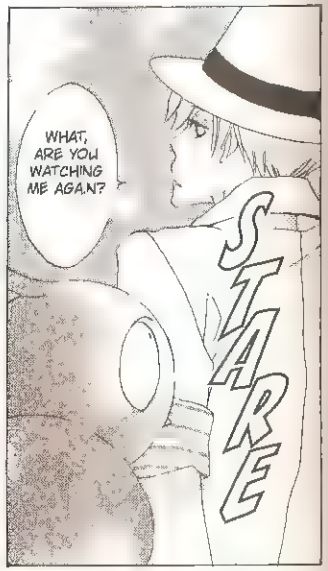
HE'S REVELING IN HIS VICTORY ...!
HEH.
FORGET ABOUT IT...
GUELL ...
THE NEXT PANEL, PLEASE.
DING-DONG
I DON'T WANT TO BE TOLD BY A BIRD THAT I'M CHILDISH.
WHEN I TOLD HIM I'D PICK SOMETHING OUT AT THE CAFETERIA, I GOT...
HEH...
IN RESPONSE

WOULDN'T TASTE VERY GOOD. THAT SAMPLE'S A DRIED FLOWER. IT'D TURN TO DUST IN YOUR MOUTH.
TAP TAP
BUT BE PATIENT AND THE DAY WILL COME WHEN YOU CAN EAT PLENTY OF THE SAME VARIETY, ONLY FRESH.
YOU WANNA EAT THAT ONE?
THAT'S OUR JOB.
IF ALL GOES WELL.
YES, YOU EXPLAINED ALL THAT IN YOUR LECTURE EARLIER.
BUT WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO OUTSIDE FOR THE AFTERNOON CLASS?
YOU KNOW, WHENEVER IT'S TIME FOR US TO LEAVE THE ISLAND, GLELL CRIES UP A STORM.
YOU CRIED SO MUCH THAT YOU DRIED UP AND DIED...
...BUT THE POWER OF FRIENDSHIP BROUGHT YOU BACK TO LIFE.
DO NOT!
THE BIRDS OF OPAL GET THEIR BEAUTY FROM THE ISLAND'S FLOWERS THAT THEY EAT...
...BUT BY CROSSING PLANTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES WITH THE ISLAND'S NATIVE FLORA, FLOWERS WITH EVEN MORE COLORS SHOULD RESULT.
OUR RESEARCH TEAM CROSSES THE OCEAN TO SEARCH FOR VARIETIES OF FLOWERS THAT WOULD BE SUITABLE FOR CROSS-BREEDING.

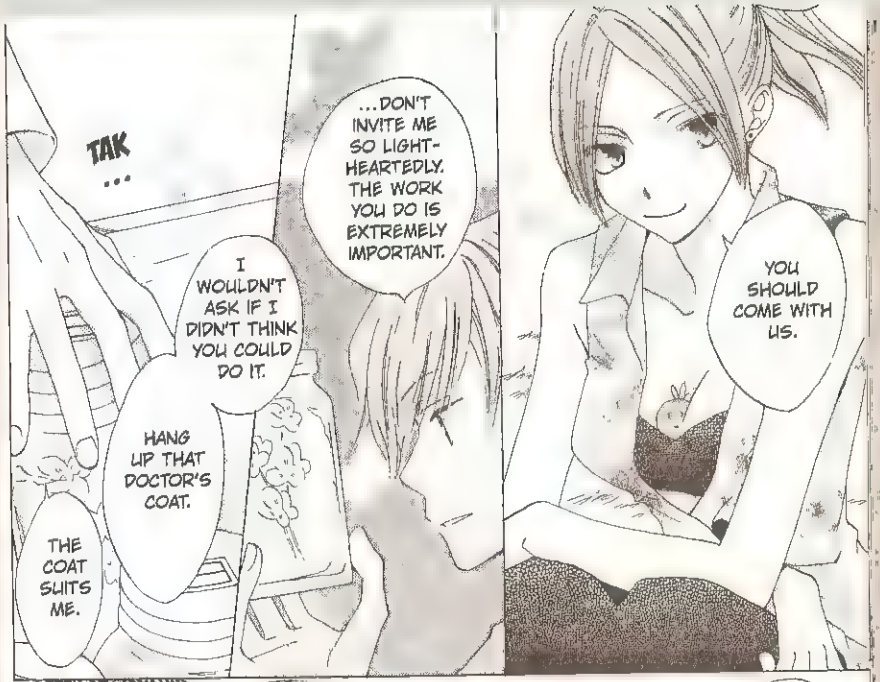
SMACK
SMACK
GUTEN MORGEN, YOYO!
I THOUGHT THAT'S WHAT SHE WAS GOING TO SAY.
BUT WHY SPEAK IN GERMAN?
COME HERE!
I HAVE TO HELP IN THE AFTERNOON, TOO...?
YEAH, YEAH.
ARE ALL OF THESE FLOWERS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES?
THAT'S RIGHT.
I HOPE YOU'RE NOT DISAPPOINTED, BUT NONE ARE FROM YOUR HOME COUNTRY.


HMM ...
...AND IT'S EASIER TO PICK UP ON THEM OUT HERE THAN INSIDE.
THEY'VE GOT A LOT OF DIFFERENT SCENTS...
HERE SUNBLOCK.
KEEP AN EYE ON THE SAMPLES HERE.
WE'RE GOING TO UNLOAD THE LAST OFF THE SHIP.

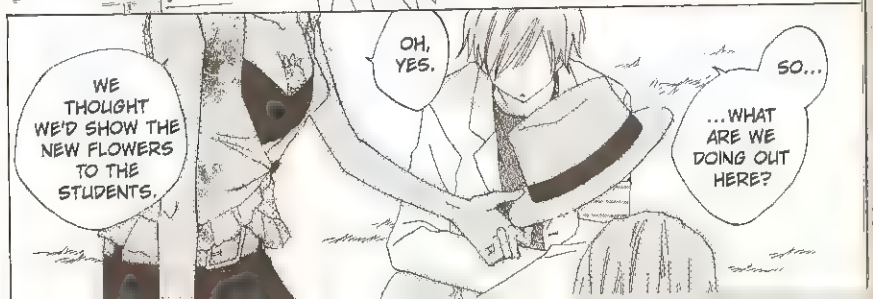

YOU DON'T HAVE TO NOD THAT MUCH!
NOD NOD NOD
MAYBE YOU THINK IT'S UNUSUAL FOR ME TO HAVE FRIENDS?

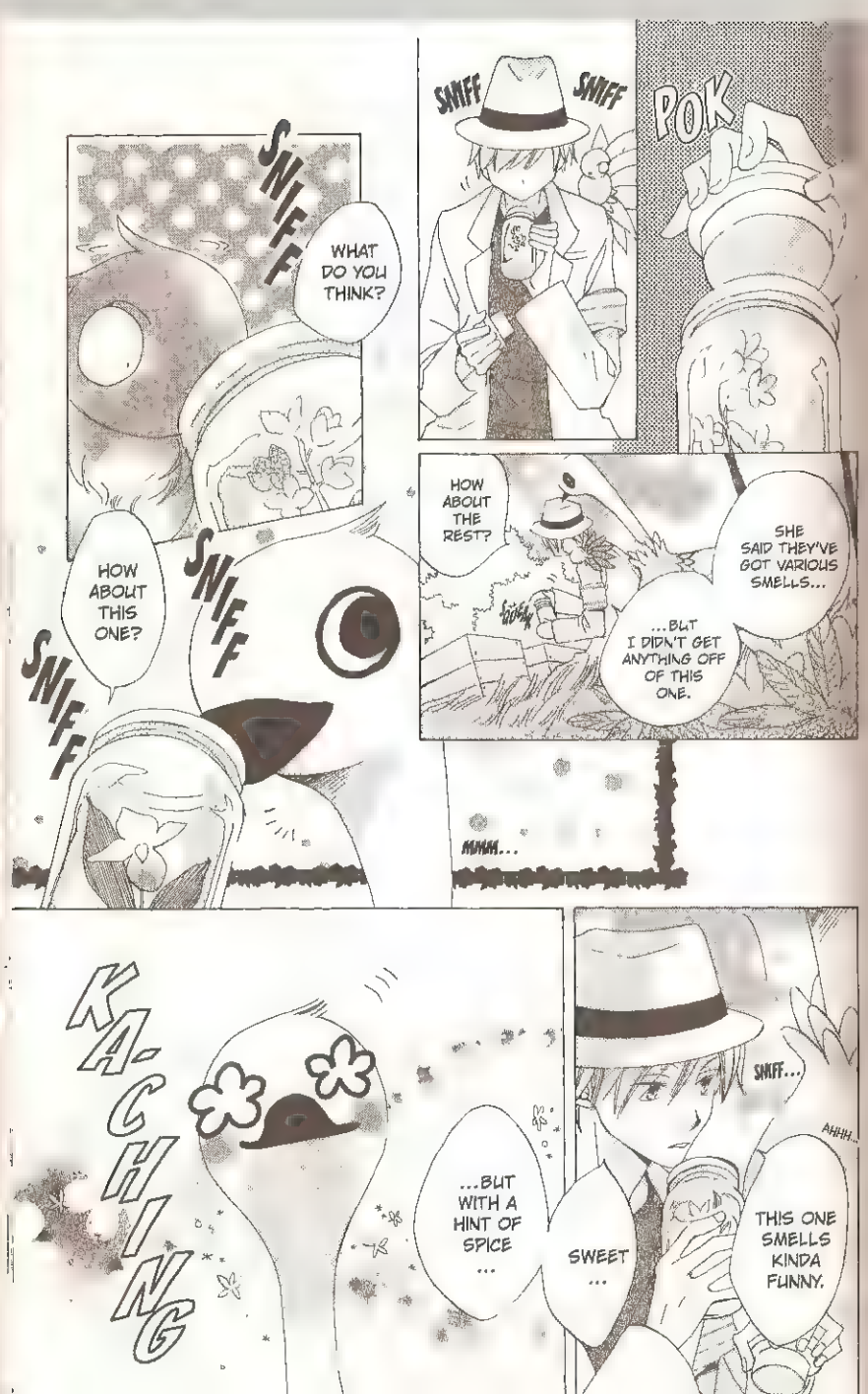

WHAT, ARE YOU WATCHING ME AGAIN?
STARE

"GOOD FRIENDS"? YEAH...
OH.
"GOOD ...
...F...
...R...
...I...


TAK ...
...DON'T INVITE ME SO LIGHT-HEARTEDLY. THE WORK YOU DO IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT.
I WOULDN'T ASK IF I DIDN'T THINK YOU COULD DO IT.
HANG UP THAT DOCTOR'S COAT.
THE COAT SUITS ME.
YOU SHOULD COME WITH US.

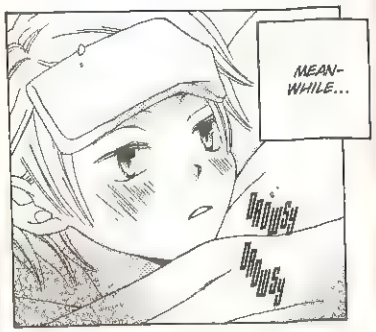
STILL THE BOSS, EH, GOSTI?
ONE UNDERLING ISN'T ENOUGH FOR MY BIG SISTER.
BUT THE TWO OF US ARE LONELY WITHOUT YOU.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, MAGE?


WE THOUGHT WE'D SHOW THE NEW FLOWERS TO THE STUDENTS.
OH, YES.
SO...
...WHAT ARE WE DOING OUT HERE?


SNIFF
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
SNIFF
HOW ABOUT THIS ONE?
SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF
POK
HOW ABOUT THE REST?
SHE SAID THEY'VE GOT VARIOUS SMELLS...
...BUT I DIDN'T GET ANYTHING OFF OF THIS ONE.
MMMM...
KA-CHING
SNIFF...
AHHH...
...BUT WITH A HINT OF SPICE ...
SWEET ...
THIS ONE SMELLS KINDA FUNNY.

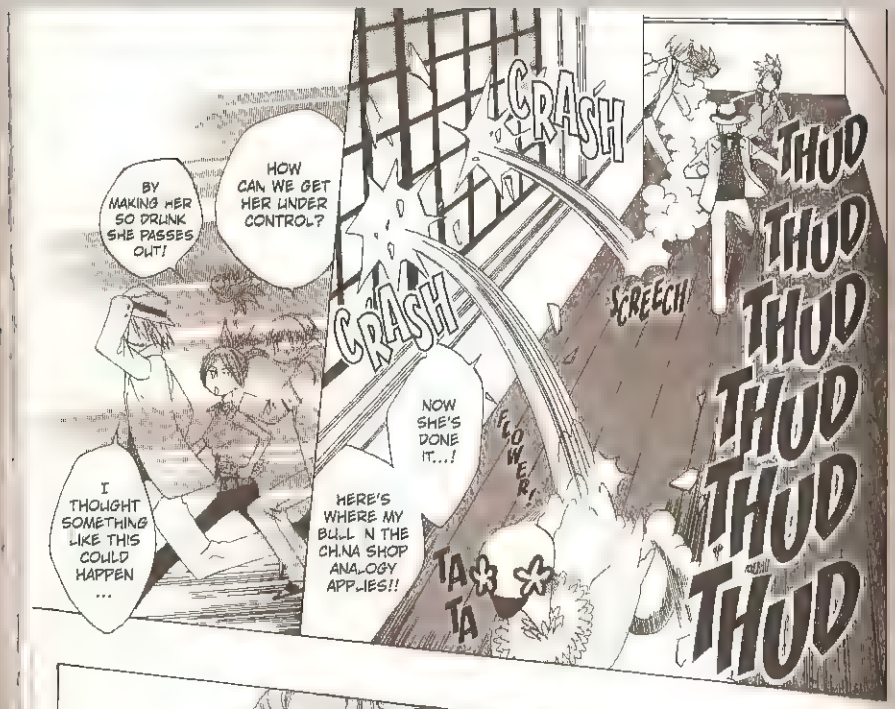
HEY! HEY!
YOYO, I DON'T "CRY UP A STORM"!
AND BESIDES ...
SPLASH
...I COULD NEVER GET MY TEARS TO GUSH LIKE THAT!
I'LL ADMIT I GET LONELY WHEN THEY LEAVE...
...BUT I'VE LONG SINCE GIVEN UP ON ...
...THE IDEA OF GOING WITH THEM.
THEY'RE MY BEST FRIENDS.

SHE'S GONNA KILL ME?!
SHIK
SHIK...
SHIK...
... CELLO IS HAVING A DREAM.


MEAN-WHILE...
DROWSY
DROWSY

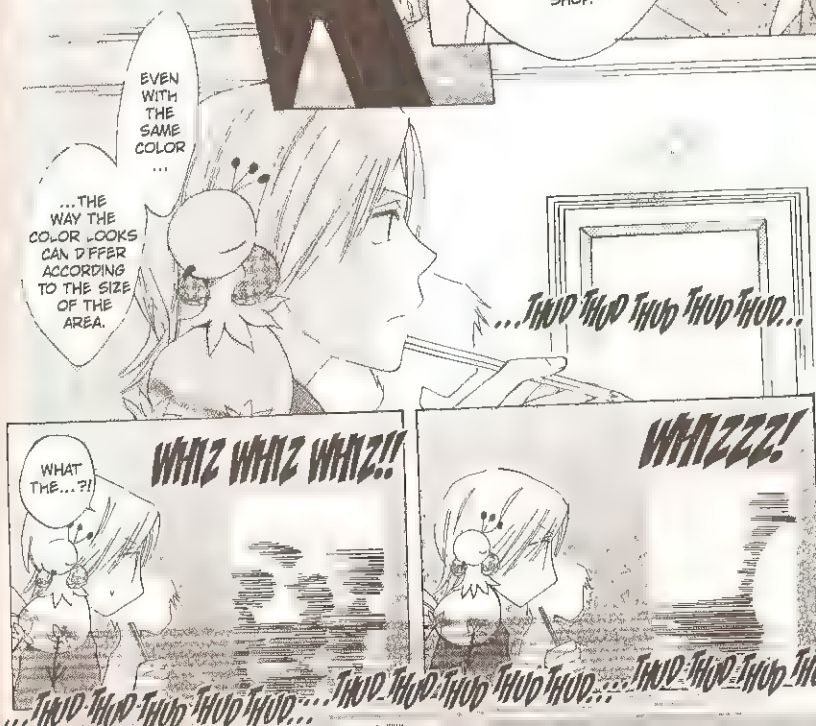
IT SAYS "SILVER-VINE"...
DIDN'T SMELL THAT GOOD TO ME.
-SILVERVINE
SH--
THUD THUD THUD
SHE GOT DRUNK ON A FLOWER?!
FLOWER!
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
FLOWER!
NANABA!
NANABA!!
COME BACK!

WHUMP!
HIC!
SNATCH
NANABA ...?
WHERE'D THAT COME FROM...?
THUMP
HIC
MUNCH MUNCH
KA-CHING!
SWISH


BY MAKING HER SO DRUNK SHE PASSES OUT!
HOW CAN WE GET HER UNDER CONTROL?
I THOUGHT SOMETHING LIKE THIS COULD HAPPEN ...
CRASH
CRASH
SCREECH
NOW SHE'S DONE IT...!
HERE'S WHERE MY BULL IN THE CHINA SHOP ANALOGY APPLIES!!
FLOWER!
TA TA
THUD THUD THUD THUD THUD THUD

...GETTING THAT UNDER NANABA'S NOSE!
THE PROBLEM IS...
...SO I CAME PREPARED!
SEE? A SPARE SAMPLE OF SILVERVINE!
FWISH
YOU GOT HER DRUNK IN THE FIRST PLACE, GUELL! TAKE RESPONSIBILITY!
ME?
ANY IDEAS?

WE HAVE TO GO AFTER HER!
AFTER HER!
UWAAA! I'M SORRY.
YOU GAVE HER SILVERVINE... I SHOULD'VE TOLD YOU.
IT'S AN EASTERN FLOWER THAT GETS BIRDS INEBRIATED. IT'S NOT USUALLY DANGEROUS ...
...BUT WHEN YOU HAVE A DRUNK OSTRICH GOING BERSERK IT CAN GET AS BAD AS A BULL IN A CHINA SHOP.


EVEN WITH THE SAME COLOR ...
...THE WAY THE COLOR LOOKS CAN DIFFER ACCORDING TO THE SIZE OF THE AREA.
...THUD THUD THUD THUD THUD...
WHAT THE...?!
WHIZ WHIZ WHIZ!!
WHIZZZ!
...THUD THUD THUD THUD THUD...
...THUD THUD THUD THUD THUD...
...THUD THUD THUD THUD THUD...

GROAN
GROAN
MM...
GASP!

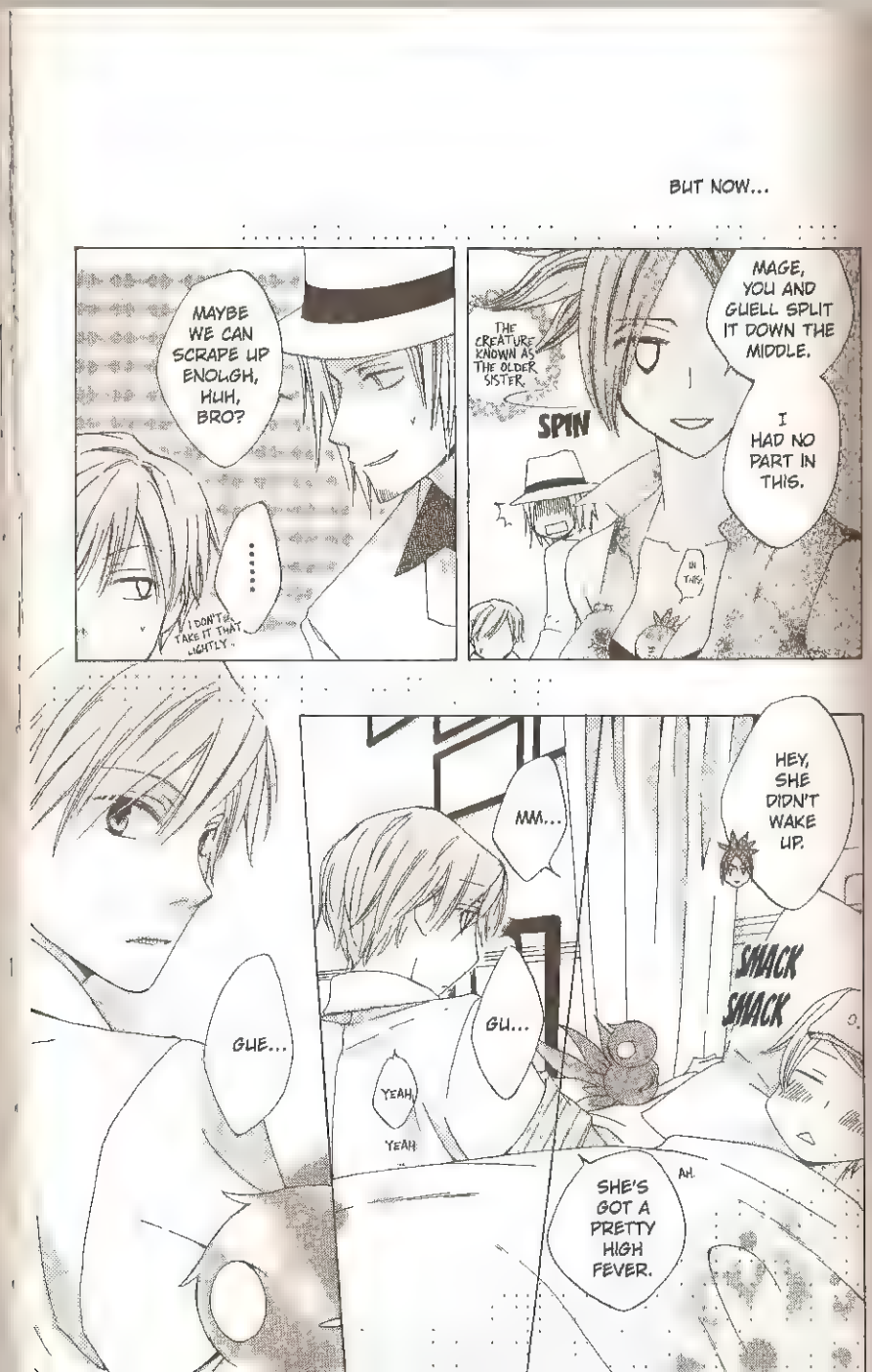
THE INFIRMARY WILL BE...
破滅!!
DEMOLISHED!!
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
BESIDES, SHE'S HEADING RIGHT FOR THE INFIRMARY!
YOUR WORKPLACE IS GONNA BE DEMOLISHED!
THE INFIRMARY ...?

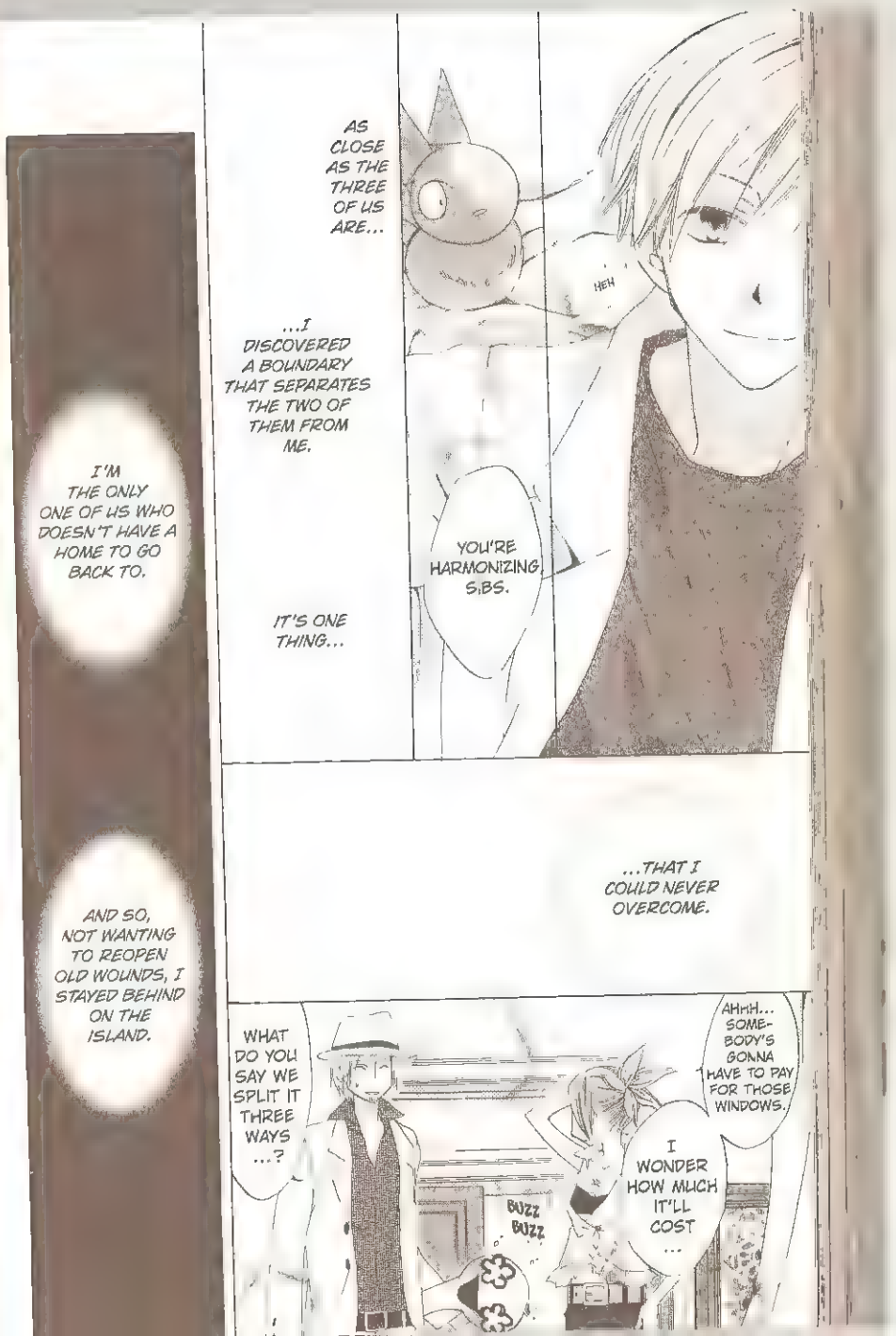
FOOO
SLEEEEEPY

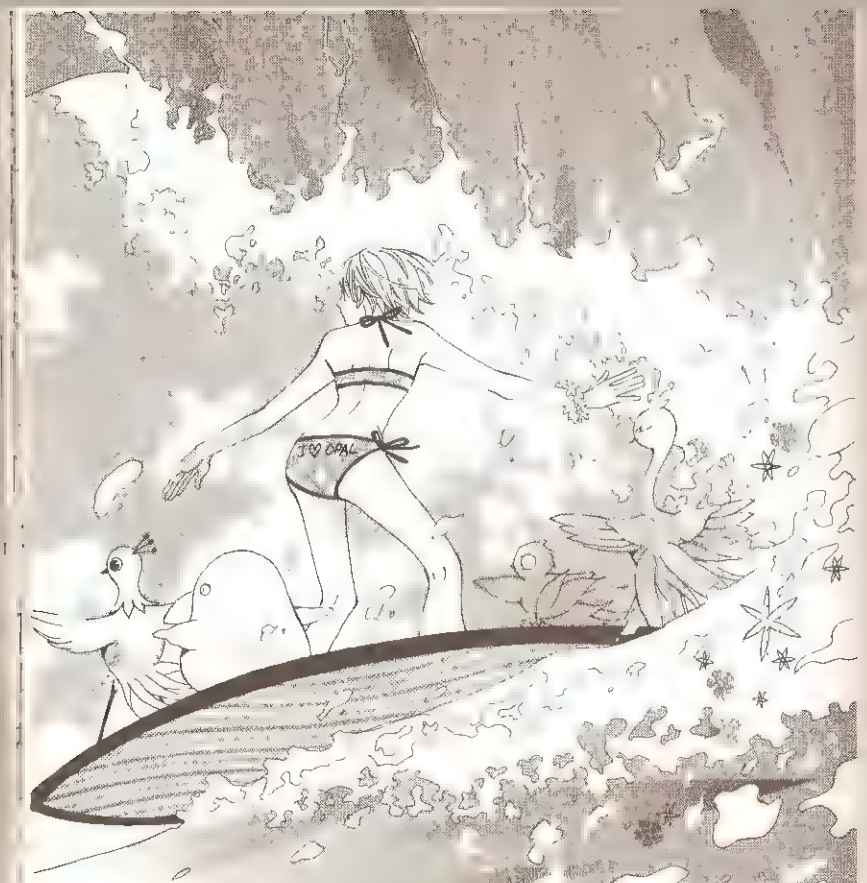
HE JUST THREW THE ISLAND'S TREASURE!
PITCHHHH
THE WIND UP...
SNA
TCH
GR
AB

GR
AB
GOTCHA!!
IS EVERYBODY OKAY?!

?!
BAM!
WOB
BLE...
STU
MB
LE
SWISH
TWIT
STAGGER...


BUT NOW...
MAYBE WE CAN SCRAPE UP ENOUGH, HUH, BRO?
.....
I DON'T TAKE IT THAT LIGHTLY.
THE CREATURE KNOWN AS THE OLDER SISTER
SPIN
MAGE, YOU AND GUELL SPLIT IT DOWN THE MIDDLE.
I HAD NO PART IN THIS.
IN THIS
GUE...
MM...
GU...
YEAH
YEAH
HEY, SHE DIDN'T WAKE UP.
SMACK
SMACK
AH.
SHE'S GOT A PRETTY HIGH FEVER.


I'M THE ONLY ONE OF US WHO DOESN'T HAVE A HOME TO GO BACK TO.
AND SO, NOT WANTING TO REOPEN OLD WOUNDS, I STAYED BEHIND ON THE ISLAND.
AS CLOSE AS THE THREE OF US ARE...
...I DISCOVERED A BOUNDARY THAT SEPARATES THE TWO OF THEM FROM ME.
IT'S ONE THING...
HEH
YOU'RE HARMONIZING, S.BS.
...THAT I COULD NEVER OVERCOME.
WHAT DO YOU SAY WE SPLIT IT THREE WAYS ...?
BUZZ BUZZ
I WONDER HOW MUCH IT'LL COST ...
AHHH... SOMEBODY'S GONNA HAVE TO PAY FOR THOSE WINDOWS.

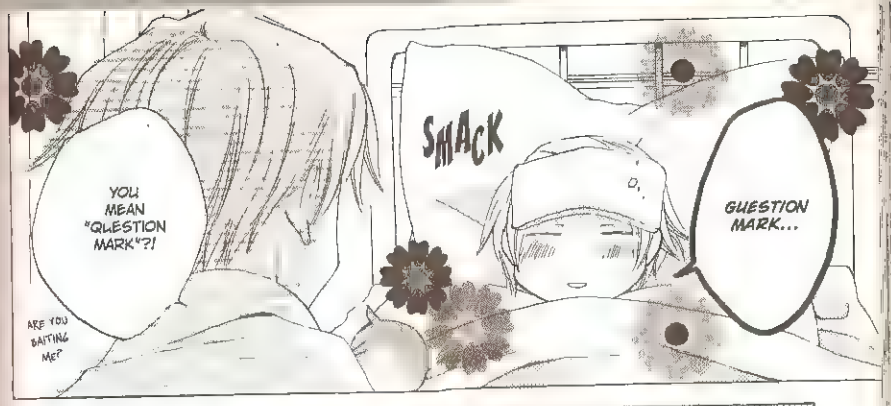


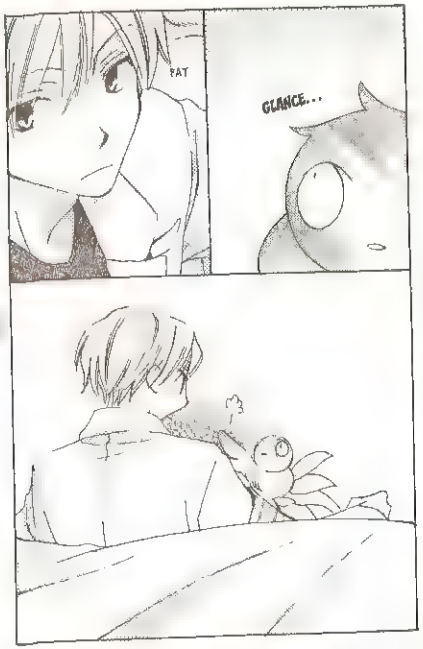
じゅうにひそく

十二秘色のパレット

The Palette of 12 Secret Colors

EPISODE 14

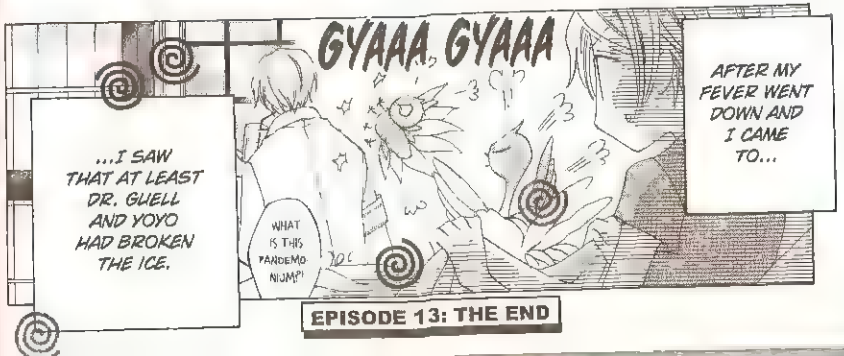




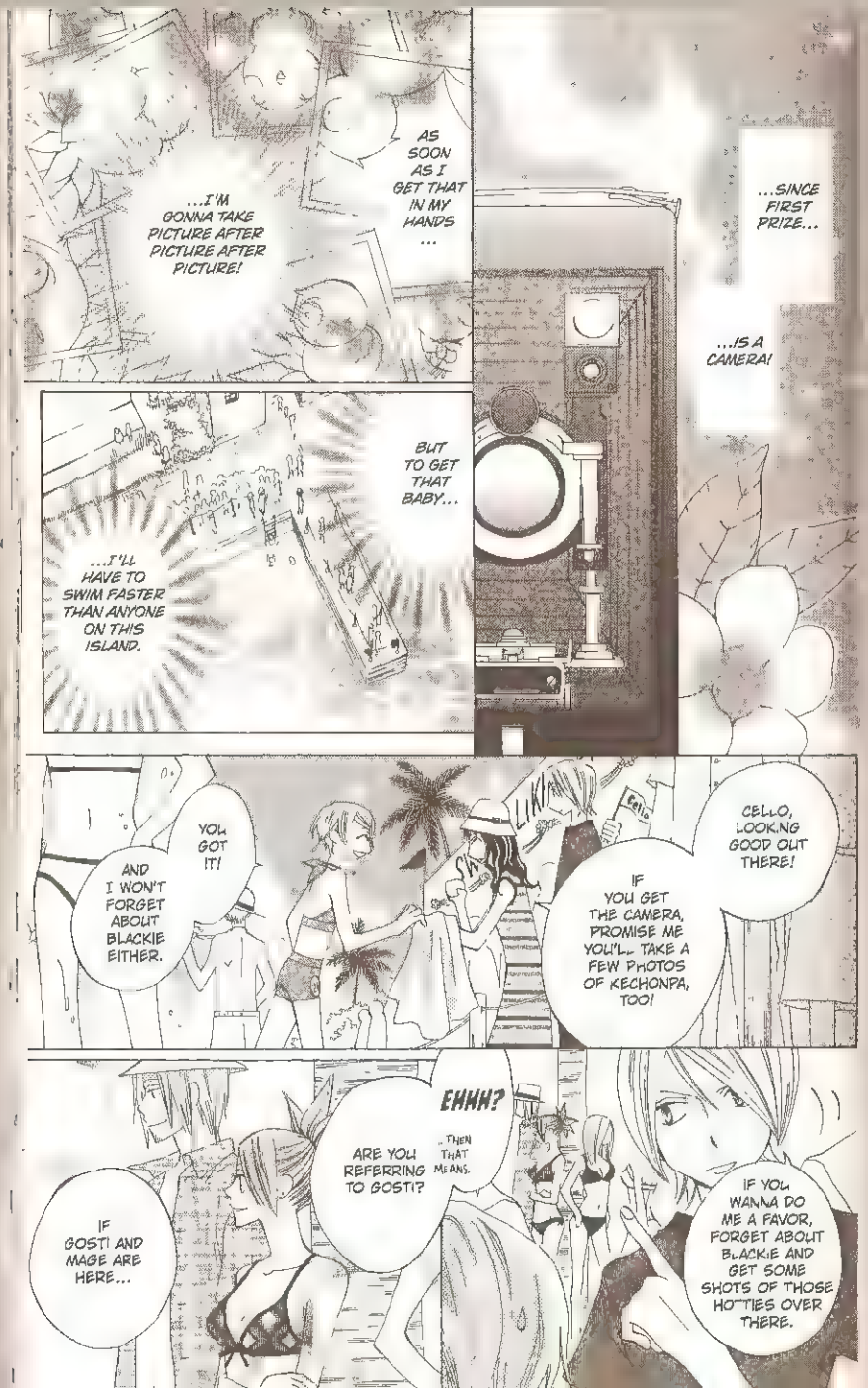
...COMPARED TO LONG AGO, I CAN FORGET ABOUT MY SCARS.

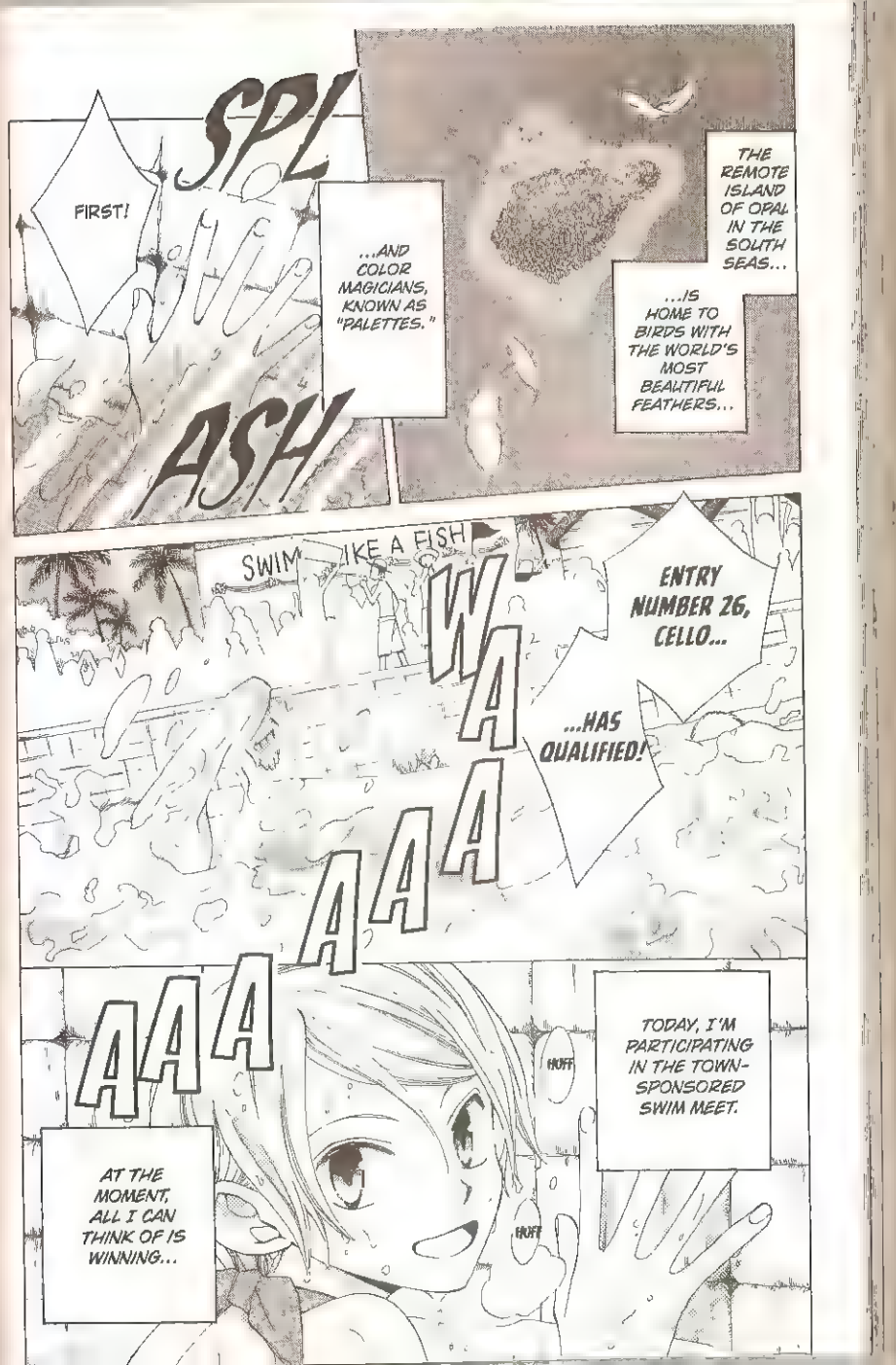
SORRY.

BUT YOUR SYMPATHY IS MORE ANNOYING TO ME THAN YOUR "HEH"S...

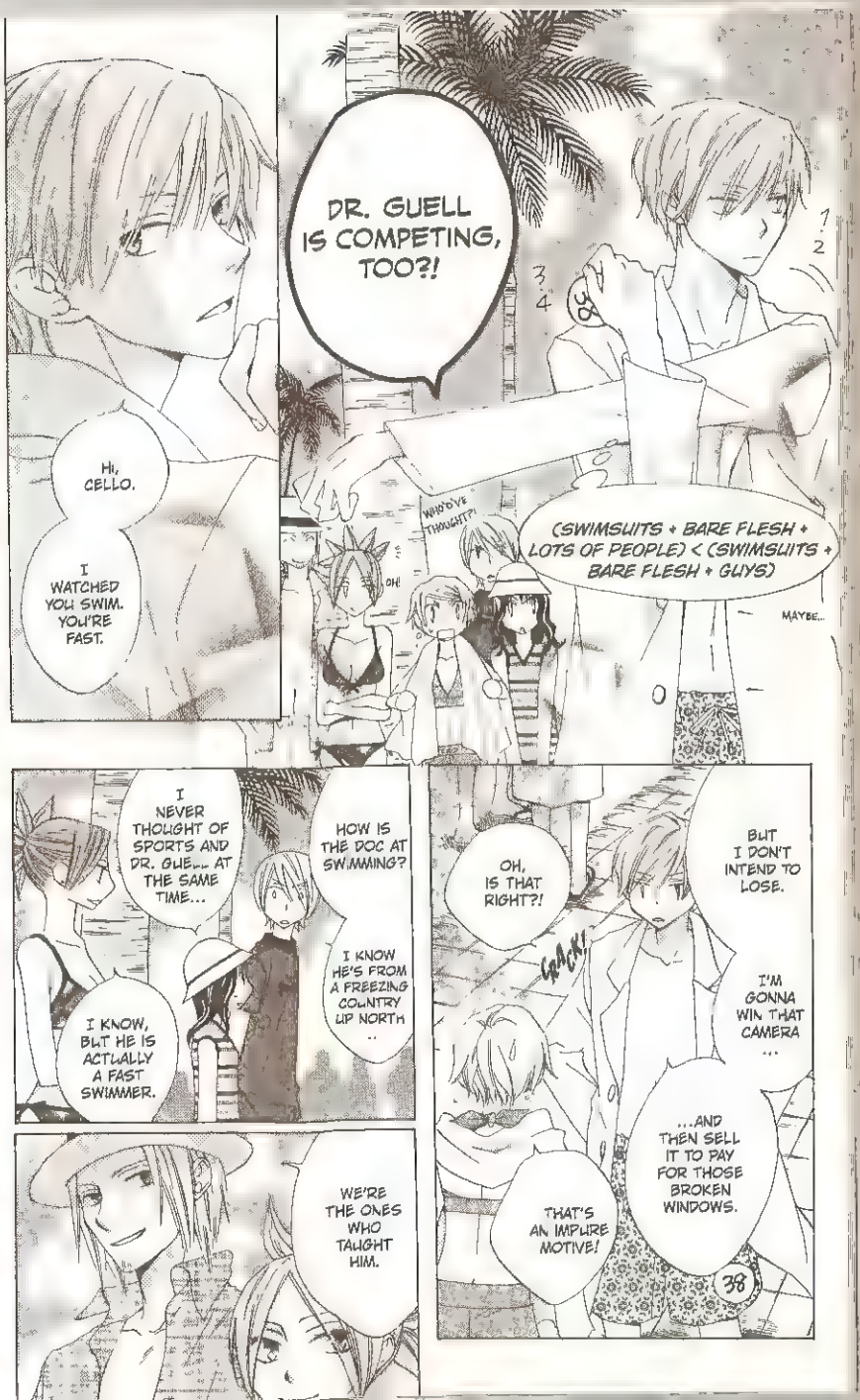

GYAAA, GYAAA
...I SAW THAT AT LEAST DR. GUELL AND YOYO HAD BROKEN THE ICE.
WHAT IS THIS PANDEMONIUM?!
AFTER MY FEVER WENT DOWN AND I CAME TO...

EPISODE 13: THE END


...I'M GONNA TAKE PICTURE AFTER PICTURE AFTER PICTURE!
AS SOON AS I GET THAT IN MY HANDS ...
...SINCE FIRST PRIZE...
...IS A CAMERA!
BUT TO GET THAT BABY...
...I'LL HAVE TO SWIM FASTER THAN ANYONE ON THIS ISLAND.
YOU GOT IT!
AND I WON'T FORGET ABOUT BLACKIE EITHER.
CELLO, LOOKING GOOD OUT THERE!
IF YOU GET THE CAMERA, PROMISE ME YOU'LL TAKE A FEW PHOTOS OF KECHONPA, TOO!
EHHH?
ARE YOU REFERRING TO GOSTI?
...THEN THAT MEANS.
IF GOSTI AND MAGE ARE HERE...
IF YOU WANNA DO ME A FAVOR, FORGET ABOUT BLACKIE AND GET SOME SHOTS OF THOSE HOTTIES OVER THERE.


SPL
ASH
FIRST!
...AND COLOR MAGICIANS, KNOWN AS "PALETTES."
THE REMOTE ISLAND OF OPAL IN THE SOUTH SEAS...
...IS HOME TO BIRDS WITH THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL FEATHERS...
SWIM LIKE A FISH
WA
AAA
AAA
ENTRY NUMBER 26, CELLO...
...HAS QUALIFIED!
AT THE MOMENT, ALL I CAN THINK OF IS WINNING...
HUFF
HUFF
TODAY, I'M PARTICIPATING IN THE TOWN-SPONSORED SWIM MEET.

SPLOOSH!
GO!
BANG
SAME HERE. CELLO IS JUST NATURALLY ATHLETIC.
ON YOUR MARKS...
GET SET...
BUT WE'RE NO MATCH FOR HIM NOW.
THAT'S WHY, FOR AN EVENT LIKE THIS, WE JUST WATCH FROM THE SIDELINES.
...WHAT ABOUT MY SWIMSUIT? THAT'S FAN SERVICE
TAP
NUMBER 26...
ZAAA
NOT BAD...
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
NUMBER 38...
...IS IN THE FINALS!!
...WILL BE IN THE FINALS!!
YESSS!
26
WAAA
Cello the Mermaid

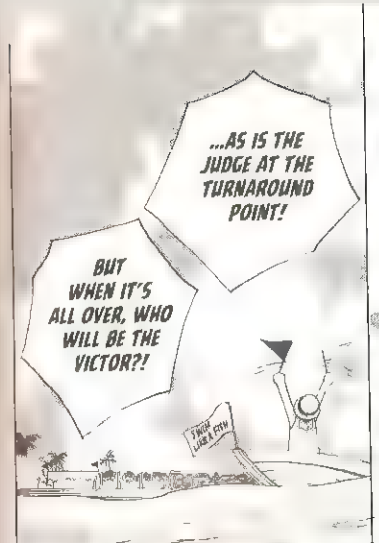

DR. GUELL IS COMPETING, TOO?!
Hi, CELLO.
I WATCHED YOU SWIM. YOU'RE FAST.
WHO'D'VE THOUGHT?!
OH!
(SWIMSUITS + BARE FLESH + LOTS OF PEOPLE) < (SWIMSUITS + BARE FLESH + GUYS)
MAYBE...
I NEVER THOUGHT OF SPORTS AND DR. GUE... AT THE SAME TIME...
I KNOW, BUT HE IS ACTUALLY A FAST SWIMMER.
HOW IS THE DOC AT SWIMMING?
I KNOW HE'S FROM A FREEZING COUNTRY UP NORTH
WE'RE THE ONES WHO TAUGHT HIM.
OH, IS THAT RIGHT?!
GACK!
BUT I DON'T INTEND TO LOSE.
I'M GONNA WIN THAT CAMERA
...AND THEN SELL IT TO PAY FOR THOSE BROKEN WINDOWS.
THAT'S AN IMPURE MOTIVE!
38

6

SWIMMING

A LONG TIME AGO A FRIEND OF MINE WHO WAS ON THE SWIM TEAM TAUGHT ME THAT WHEN YOU GET A CRAMP IN YOUR LEG, YOU SHOULD GO LIKE THIS TO GET RID OF IT:

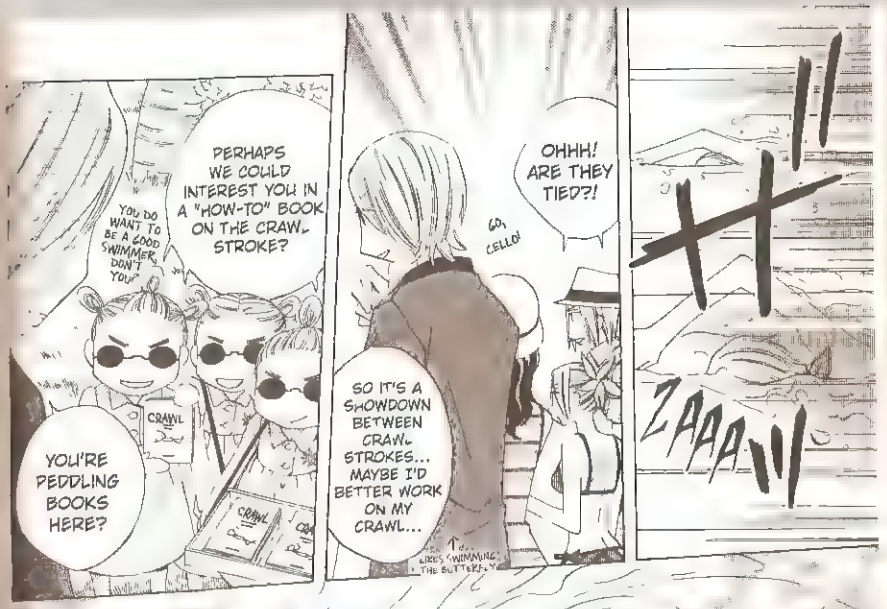
ONCE, WHILE TAKING A NAP ON THE JOB, I SUDDENLY GOT A CRAMP IN MY CALF, SO I TRIED THE METHOD SHE PRESCRIBED, BUT IT DIDN'T WORK! IN FACT, IT FELT LIKE MY LEG WAS SURPRISED AT THE MOVEMENT AND CRANKED UP THE PAIN A NOTCH HIGHER. I'M NOT SO SURE MY FRIEND WAS RIGHT... I'VE FOUND THAT THE ONLY THING TO DO WHEN YOU GET A LEG CRAMP IS STICK IT OUT. THIS ONE TIME, I WAS IN BED WHEN I SUDDENLY GOT A CRAMP IN BOTH LEGS AT THE SAME TIME. I THOUGHT TO MYSELF, "SO THIS IS WHAT 'WRITHING IN AGONY' IS...".

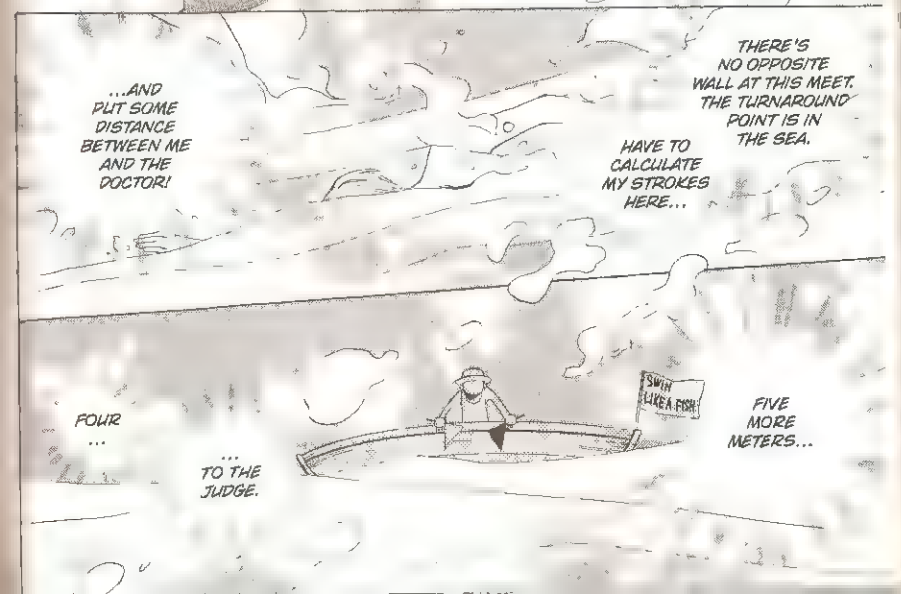


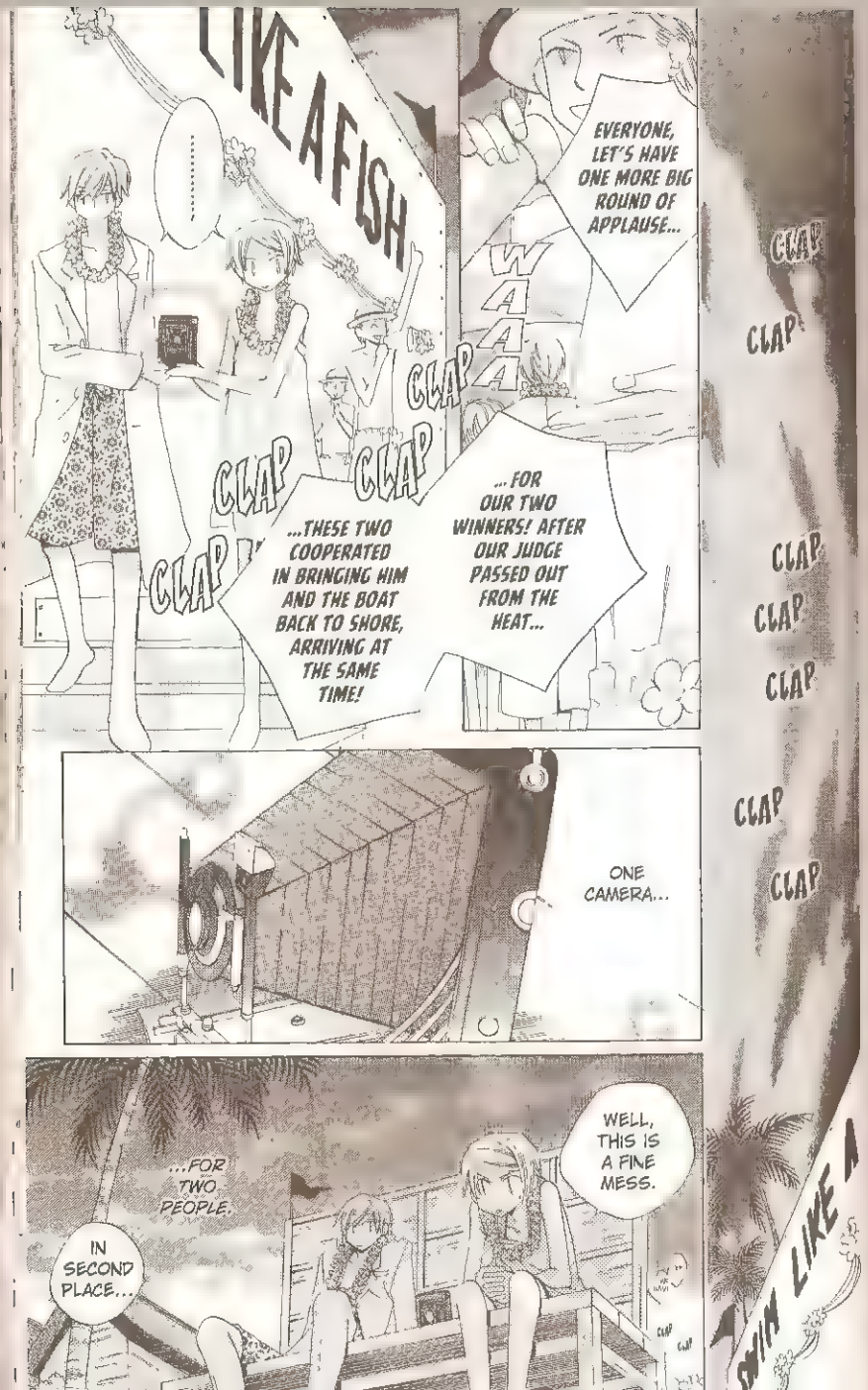
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IT'S NOW TIME FOR THE FINAL RACE, A SHORT-DISTANCE, FREE-STYLE SWIM!
BUT NO WAY AM I GONNA LOSE TO HIM, NOT WITH THE REASON HE HAS FOR COMPETING!
I'M TAKING THAT CAMERA HOME!!
1 2 3 4
2 2 3 4
1 2 3 4
IT'S GOING TO BE A CLASH BETWEEN DOCTOR AND PATIENT!
AS YOU CAN SEE, BOTH SWIMMERS ARE PUMPED-UP...
26
38

ONE...
BLUB BLUB...
TWO...
THREE...
SPL ASH
FLAP
FLAP

THEY REACHED THE HALFWAY POINT AT THE SAME TIME!
BUT...
THUMP...


PERHAPS WE COULD INTEREST YOU IN A "HOW-TO" BOOK ON THE CRAWL STROKE?
YOU DO WANT TO BE A GOOD SWIMMER, DON'T YOU?
YOU'RE PEDDLING BOOKS HERE?
CRAWL
OHHH! ARE THEY TIED?!
GO, CELLO!
SO IT'S A SHOWDOWN BETWEEN CRAWL STROKES... MAYBE I'D BETTER WORK ON MY CRAWL...
LIKES SWIMMING THE BUTTERFLY
ZAAAW
HUFF


...AND PUT SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN ME AND THE DOCTOR!
THERE'S NO OPPOSITE WALL AT THIS MEET. THE TURNAROUND POINT IS IN THE SEA.
HAVE TO CALCULATE MY STROKES HERE...
FOUR ...
... TO THE JUDGE.
SWIM LIKE A FISH
FIVE MORE METERS...


LIKE A FISH
.....
EVERYONE, LET'S HAVE ONE MORE BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE...
WAAA
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
...THESE TWO COOPERATED IN BRINGING HIM AND THE BOAT BACK TO SHORE, ARRIVING AT THE SAME TIME!
... FOR OUR TWO WINNERS! AFTER OUR JUDGE PASSED OUT FROM THE HEAT...
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
ONE CAMERA...
...FOR TWO PEOPLE.
IN SECOND PLACE...
WELL, THIS IS A FINE MESS.
SWIM LIKE A

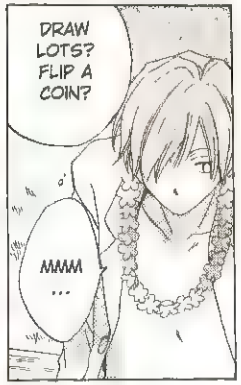
GRIN
AH... SHE'S GOOD...
KERSPLA
NOW TO MAKE MY GETAWAY!!
SH!!
WHUMP
EH...
THE JUDGE?!
SPLISH...

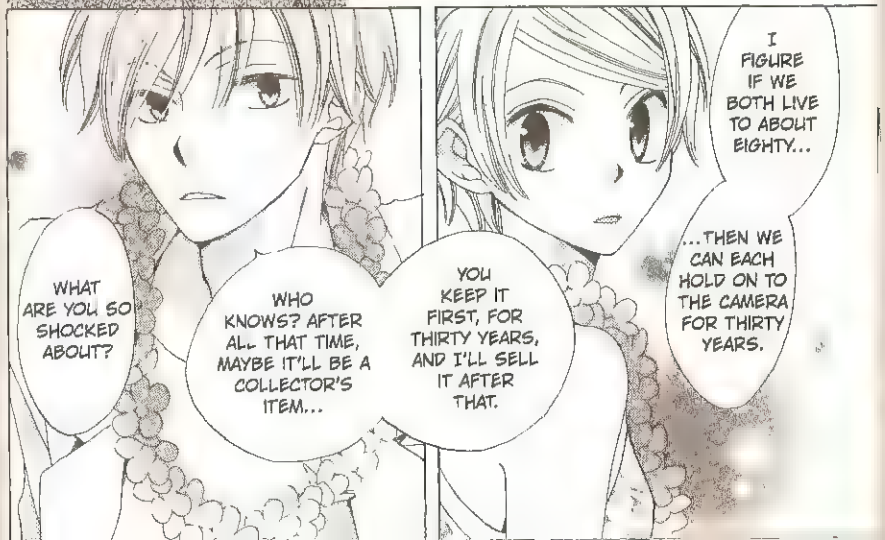
THEN, FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES...
DR. GUELL, I'M SORRY.
YOU'RE NOT CHILDISH...!
...HE'S LETTING ME HAVE THE CAMERA...
AWAWA
THAT'S RIGHT. I'M AN ADULT.
I GUESS I CAN PAY FOR THE WINDOWS OUT OF MY OWN POCKET.
GO AHEAD, TAKE PHOTOS OF WHATEVER YOU LIKE.
WHY ARE YOU SULKING?
WERE THE WINDOWS REALLY THAT EXPENSIVE?
HMPH...

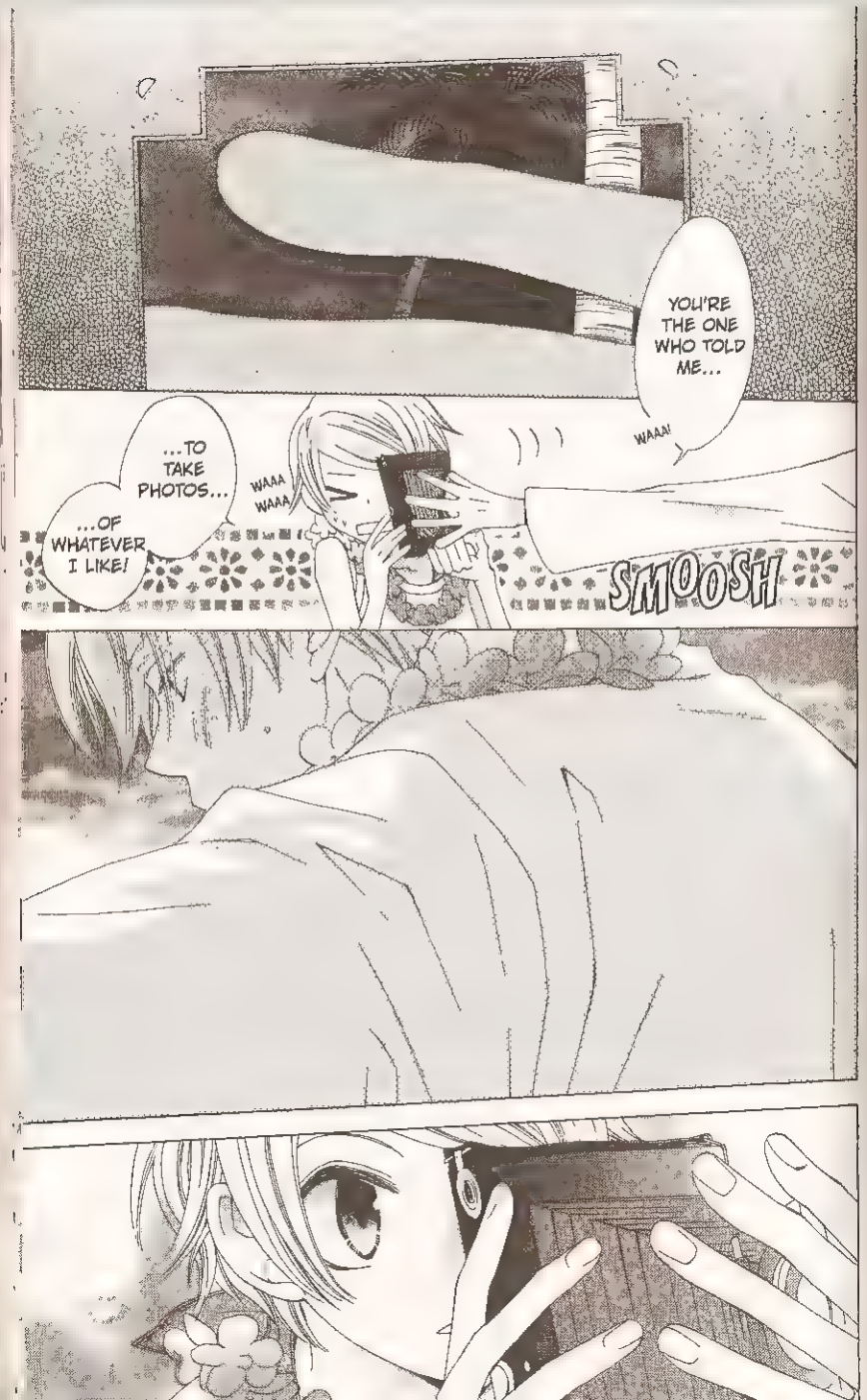
DR. GUELL THANK YOU.
YOU'RE THE BEST.
ALL RIGHT, THAT'S ENOUGH ...
WOW...

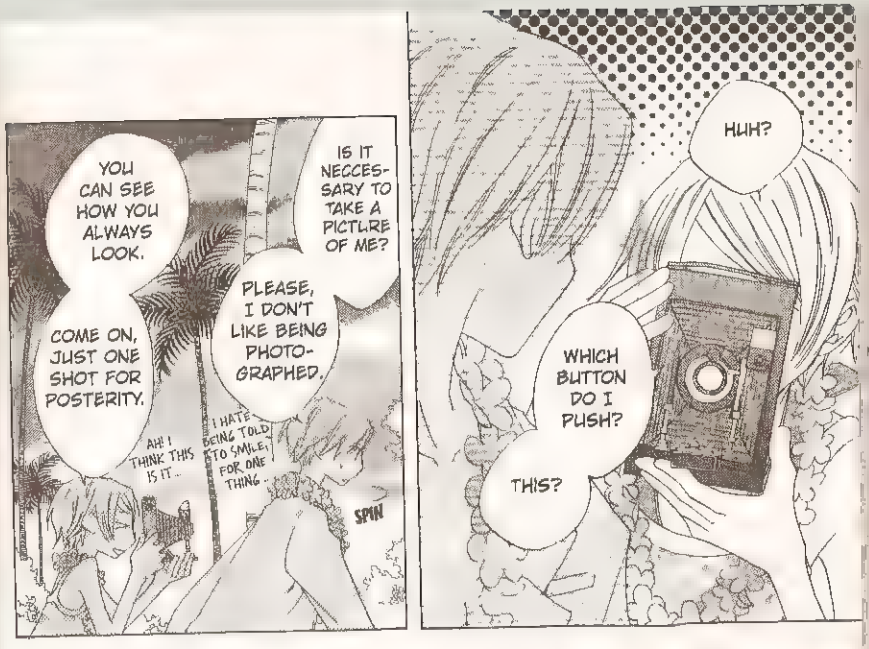
WE COULD DO A TIEBREAKER, SWIM ONE MORE RACE ...?
GREAT. MY CO-WINNER JUST HAD TO BE THE EVER-CHILDISH DR. GUELL!
IS THERE ANY WAY OUT OF THIS?!
CLAP
WAAA
CLAP CLAP
I BET THERE'S NOTHING IN HIS HEAD RIGHT NOW EXCEPT THOUGHTS OF EXCHANGING THIS CAMERA FOR CASH!
LET'S SHARE THE CAMERA.

WANNA DO ROCK, SCISSORS, PAPER FOR IT?
MMM ...

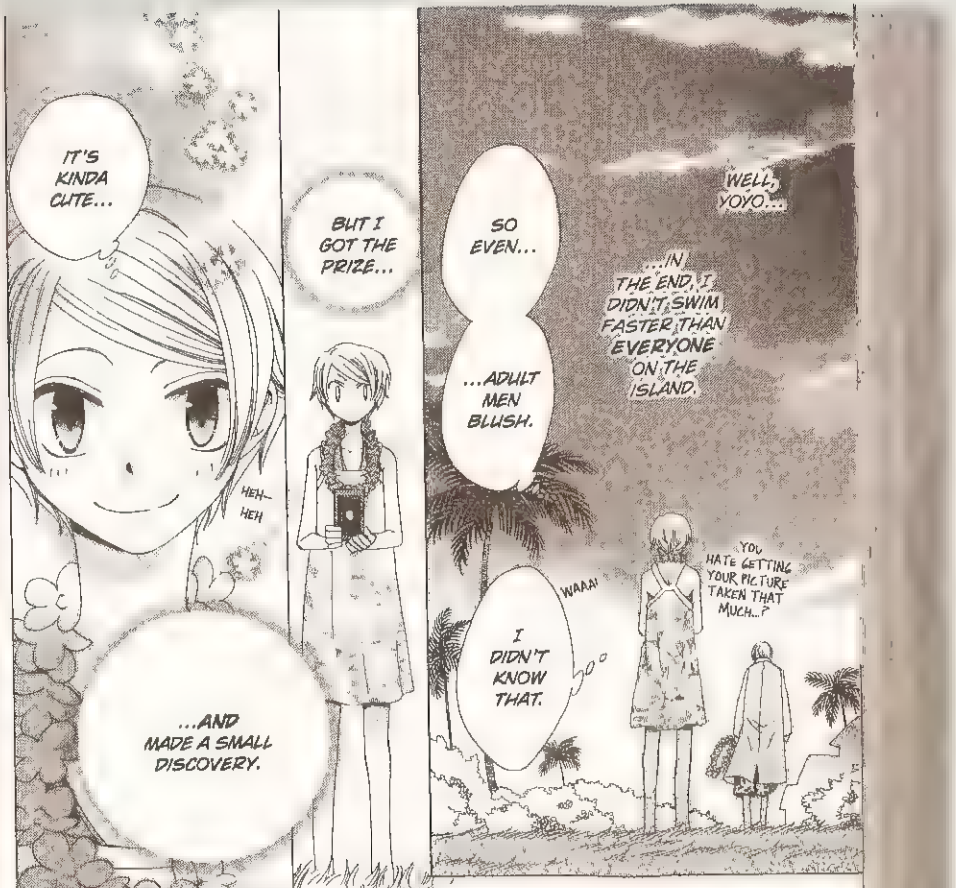

DRAW LOTS? FLIP A COIN?
MMM ...


WHAT ARE YOU SO SHOCKED ABOUT?
WHO KNOWS? AFTER ALL THAT TIME, MAYBE IT'LL BE A COLLECTOR'S ITEM...
YOU KEEP IT FIRST, FOR THIRTY YEARS, AND I'LL SELL IT AFTER THAT.
I FIGURE IF WE BOTH LIVE TO ABOUT EIGHTY...
...THEN WE CAN EACH HOLD ON TO THE CAMERA FOR THIRTY YEARS.

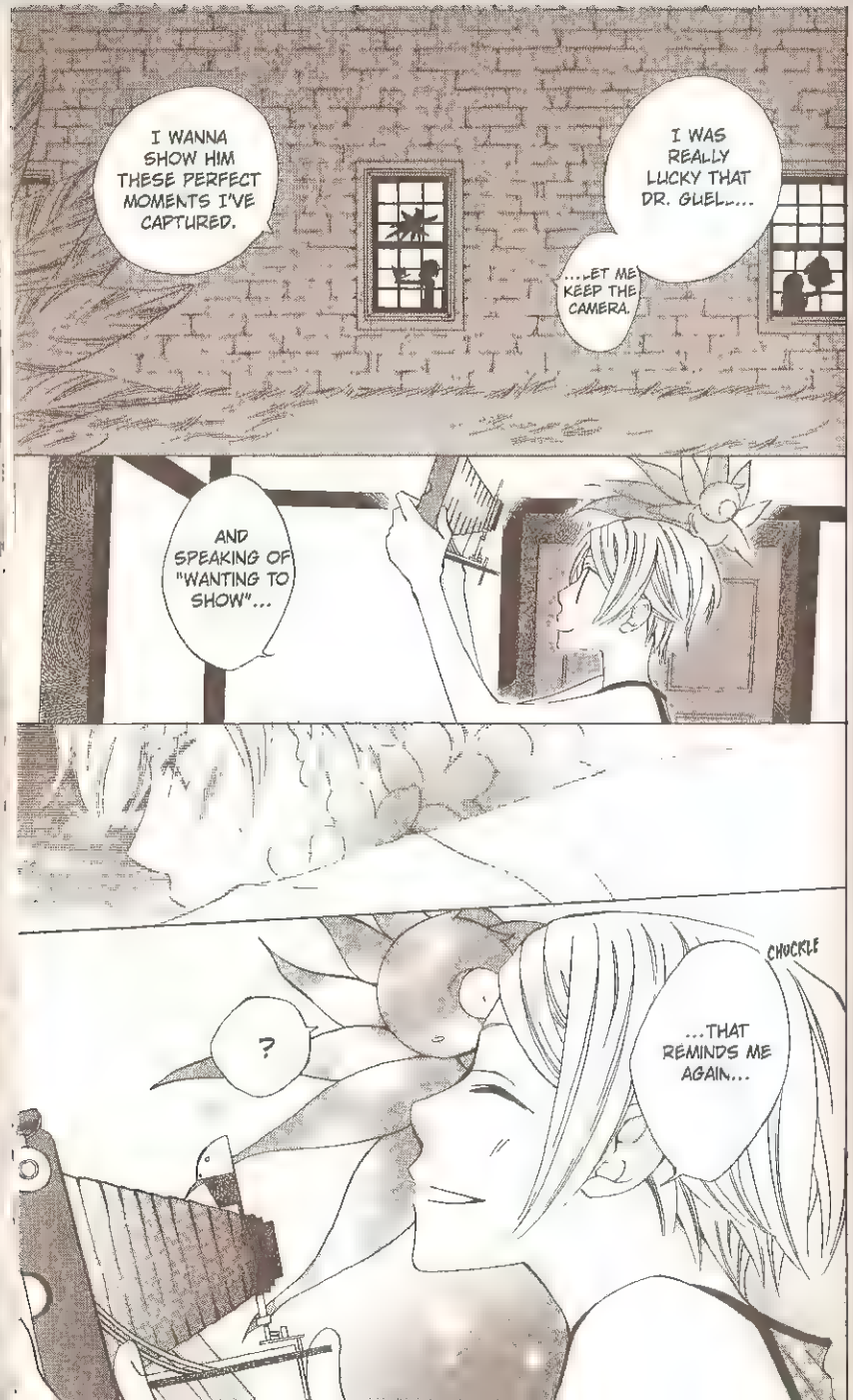

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOLD ME...
WAAA!
...TO TAKE PHOTOS...
...OF WHATEVER I LIKE!
WAAA WAAA
SMOOSH


YOU CAN SEE HOW YOU ALWAYS LOOK.
COME ON, JUST ONE SHOT FOR POSTERITY.
AH! I THINK THIS IS IT..
IS IT NECCESSARY TO TAKE A PICTURE OF ME?
PLEASE, I DON'T LIKE BEING PHOTOGRAPHED.
I HATE BEING TOLD TO SMILE, FOR ONE THING.
SPIN
HUH?
WHICH BUTTON DO I PUSH?
THIS?

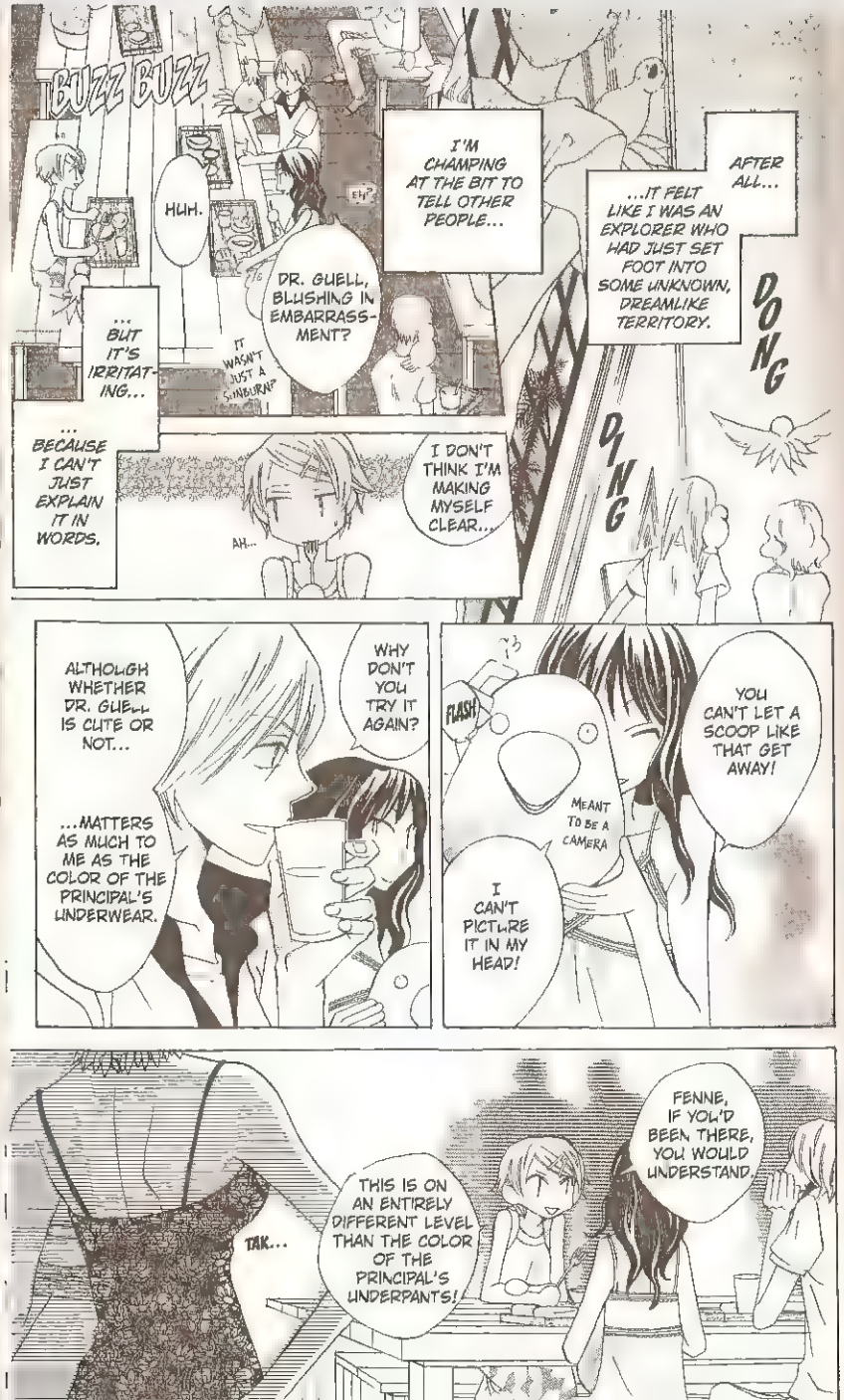
...I WANT TO TAKE YOUR PICTURE, DR. GUELL.
...BUT RIGHT NOW...
WHY DON'T YOU RUN HOME AND TAKE A PHOTO OF YOYO?
I WILL TAKE PHOTOS OF YOYO...OF COURSE!
TURN AROUND
NO, I SAID.

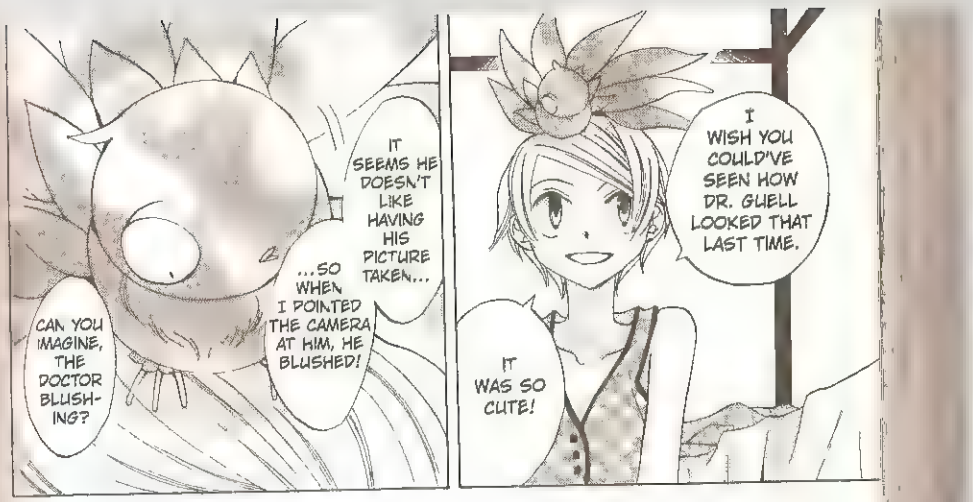

IT'S KINDA CUTE...
BUT I GOT THE PRIZE...
HEH-HEH
...AND MADE A SMALL DISCOVERY.
SO EVEN...
...ADULT MEN BLUSH.
WELL, YOYO...
...IN THE END, I DIDN'T SWIM FASTER THAN EVERYONE ON THE ISLAND.
WAAA!
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT.
YOU HATE GETTING YOUR PICTURE TAKEN THAT MUCH...?

EPISODE 14: THE END


I WANNA SHOW HIM THESE PERFECT MOMENTS I'VE CAPTURED.
I WAS REALLY LUCKY THAT DR. GUEL...
...LET ME KEEP THE CAMERA.
AND SPEAKING OF "WANTING TO SHOW"...
?
...THAT REMINDS ME AGAIN...
CHUCKLE

TWINKLE
THE REMOTE ISLAND OF OPAL IN THE SOUTH SEAS...
...IS HOME TO BIRDS WITH THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL FEATHERS...
...AND COLOR MAGICIANS, KNOWN AS "PALETTES."
FLASH
AH! TOO BAD...
I'M OUT OF FILM.
OUR SHOOT'S OVER FOR TODAY!
HUFF HUFF
HUFF HUFF
YOUR RADIANCE IS A MIRACLE IN ITSELF!
I HAVE A FEELING THESE SHOTS WILL ALL BE MASTER-PIECES!
COLOR MAGICIAN
THAT'S IT, YOYO!
YOU'RE RADIANT!
TRY LIFTING YOUR JAW UP A LITTLE MORE...
YES! THAT'S PERFECT! HOLD IT LIKE THAT!
ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL BIRDS IN THE WORLD

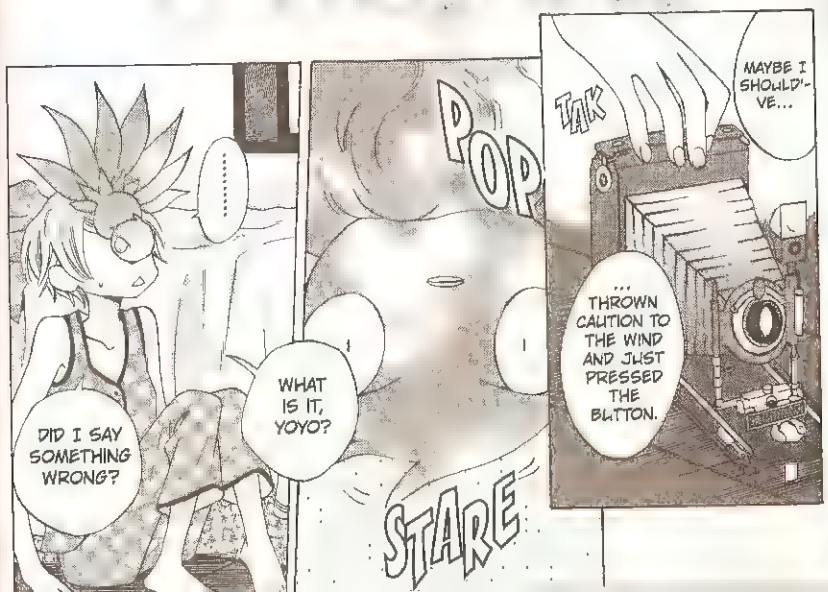

BUZZ BUZZ
HUH.
Eh?
DR. GUELL, BLUSHING IN EMBARRASSMENT?
IT WASN'T JUST A SUNBURN?
I'M CHAMPING AT THE BIT TO TELL OTHER PEOPLE...
...BUT IT'S IRRITATING...
...BECAUSE I CAN'T JUST EXPLAIN IT IN WORDS.
AH...
I DON'T THINK I'M MAKING MYSELF CLEAR...
AFTER ALL...
...IT FELT LIKE I WAS AN EXPLORER WHO HAD JUST SET FOOT INTO SOME UNKNOWN, DREAMLIKE TERRITORY.
DONG
DING
ALTHOUGH WHETHER DR. GUELL IS CUTE OR NOT...
...MATTERS AS MUCH TO ME AS THE COLOR OF THE PRINCIPAL'S UNDERWEAR.
WHY DON'T YOU TRY IT AGAIN?
FLASH
MEANT TO BE A CAMERA
I CAN'T PICTURE IT IN MY HEAD!
YOU CAN'T LET A SCOOP LIKE THAT GET AWAY!
TAK...
THIS IS ON AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT LEVEL THAN THE COLOR OF THE PRINCIPAL'S UNDERPANTS!
FENNE, IF YOU'D BEEN THERE, YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND.

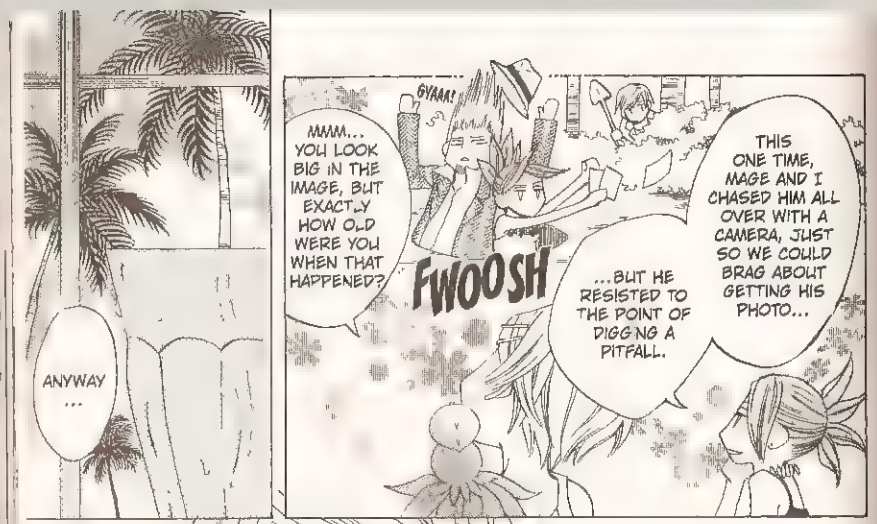

CAN YOU IMAGINE, THE DOCTOR BLUSHING?
...SO WHEN I POINTED THE CAMERA AT HIM, HE BLUSHED!
IT SEEMS HE DOESN'T LIKE HAVING HIS PICTURE TAKEN...
IT WAS SO CUTE!
I WISH YOU COULD'VE SEEN HOW DR. GUELL LOOKED THAT LAST TIME.

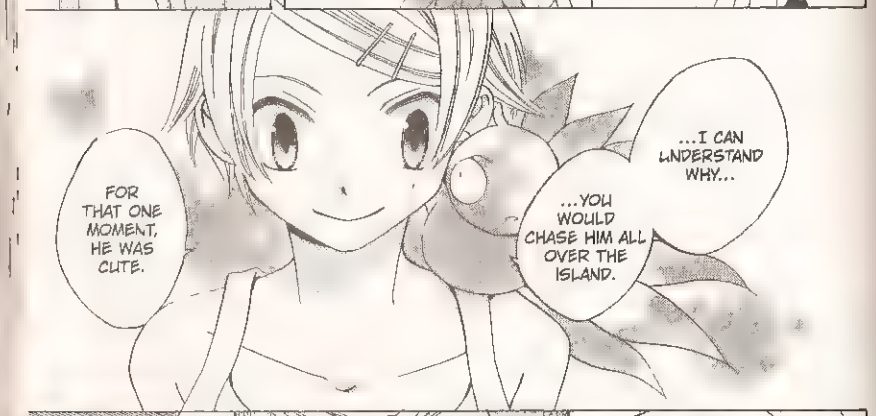
...BUT NOW, IF I HAD TO DO THE WHOLE THING OVER AGAIN...

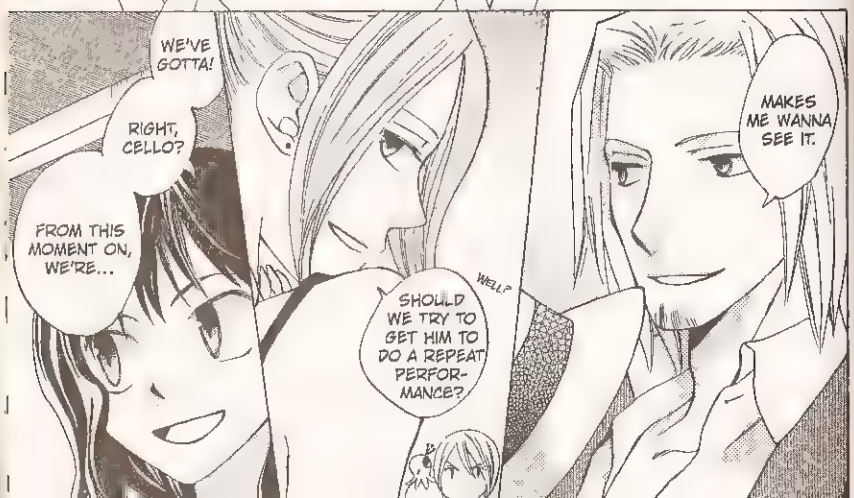
...SO NOT RELEASING THE SHUTTER WAS PROBABLY THE RIGHT THING TO DO...

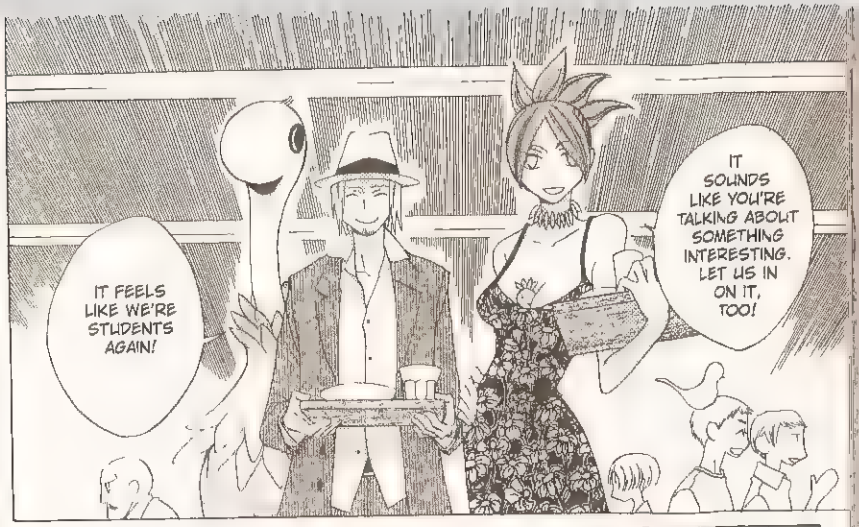
HE REALLY DIDN'T WANT ME TO TAKE A PHOTO OF HIM...

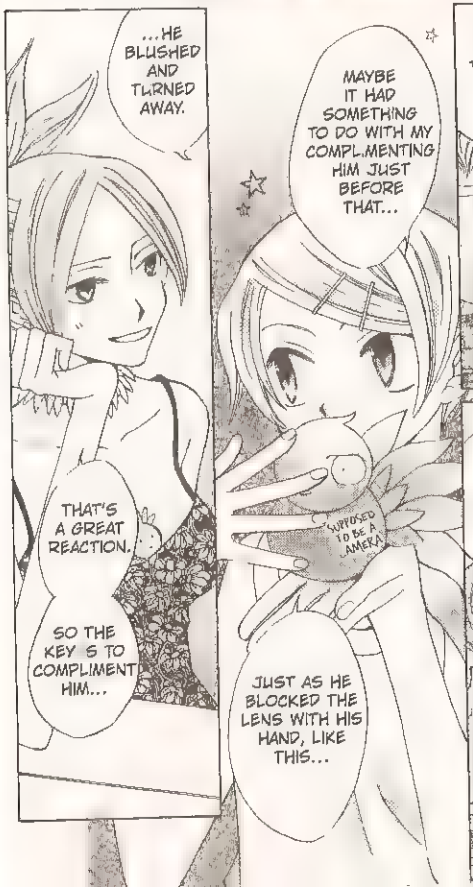


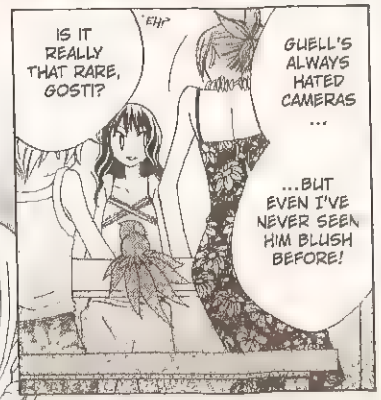

ANYWAY ...
MMM... YOU LOOK BIG IN THE IMAGE, BUT EXACTLY HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN THAT HAPPENED?
GYAAA!
FWOOSH
...BUT HE RESISTED TO THE POINT OF DIGGING A PITFALL.
THIS ONE TIME, MAGE AND I CHASED HIM ALL OVER WITH A CAMERA, JUST SO WE COULD BRAG ABOUT GETTING HIS PHOTO...

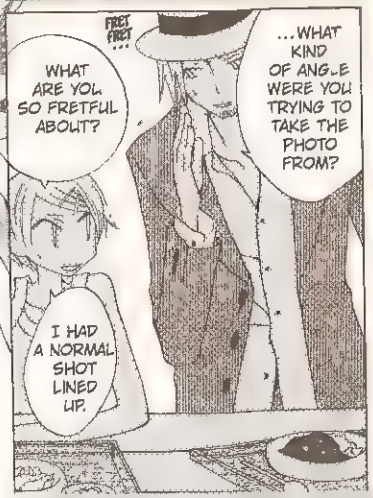

FOR THAT ONE MOMENT, HE WAS CUTE.
...YOU WOULD CHASE HIM ALL OVER THE ISLAND.
...I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY...

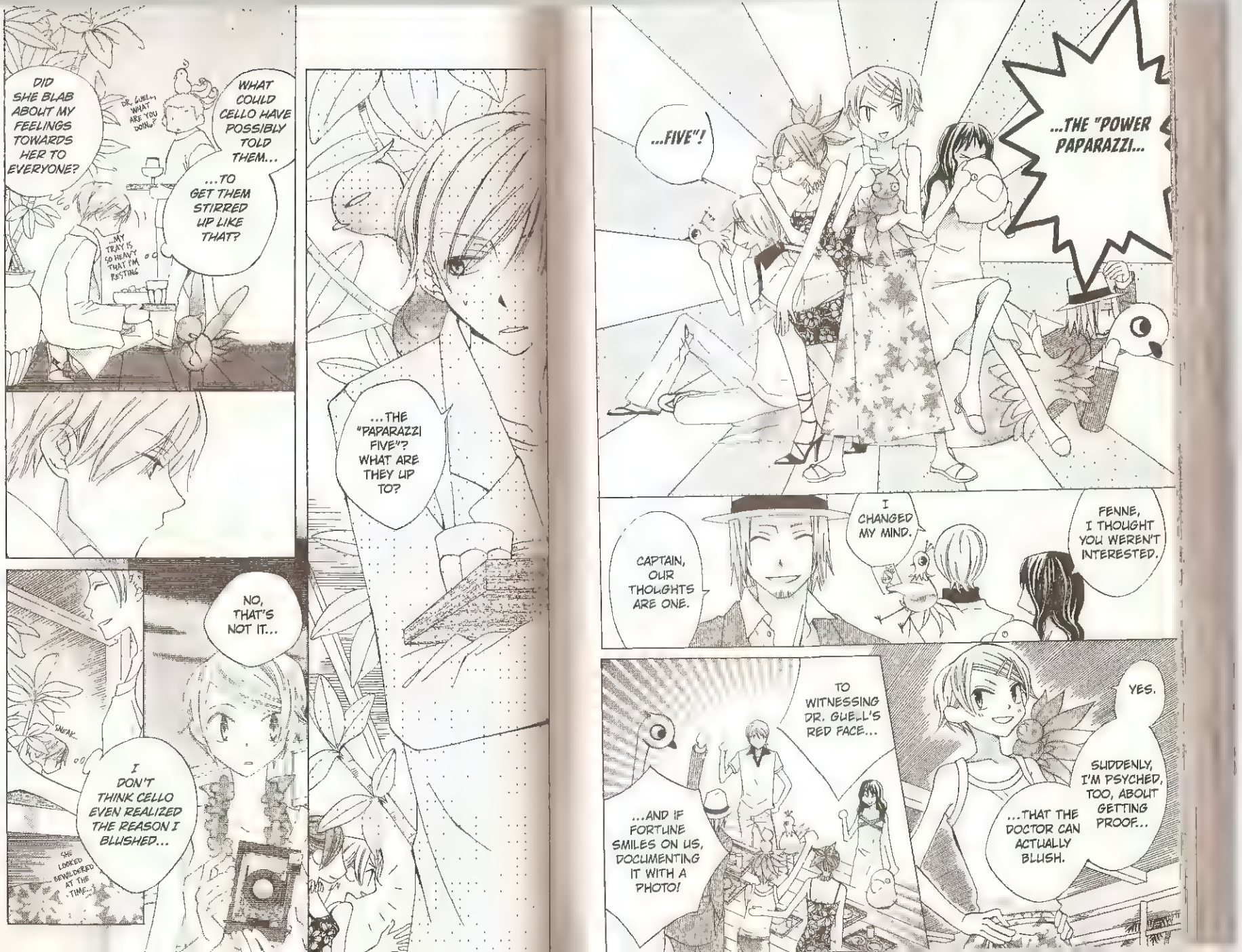

WE'VE GOTTA!
RIGHT, CELLO?
FROM THIS MOMENT ON, WE'RE...
SHOULD WE TRY TO GET HIM TO DO A REPEAT PERFORMANCE?
WELL?
MAKES ME WANNA SEE IT.


IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE STUDENTS AGAIN!
IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING INTERESTING. LET US IN ON IT, TOO!


...HE BLUSHED AND TURNED AWAY.
MAYBE IT HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH MY COMPLIMENTING HIM JUST BEFORE THAT...
THAT'S A GREAT REACTION.
SO THE KEY IS TO COMPLIMENT HIM...
SUPPOSED TO BE A CAMERA
JUST AS HE BLOCKED THE LENS WITH HIS HAND, LIKE THIS...


IS IT REALLY THAT RARE, GOSTI?
EH?
GUELL'S ALWAYS HATED CAMERAS ...
...BUT EVEN I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM BLUSH BEFORE!


FRET FRET ...
WHAT ARE YOU SO FRETFUL ABOUT?
...WHAT KIND OF ANGLE WERE YOU TRYING TO TAKE THE PHOTO FROM?
I HAD A NORMAL SHOT LINED UP.


DID SHE BLAB ABOUT MY FEELINGS TOWARDS HER TO EVERYONE?
DR. GUELL, WHAT ARE YOU DOING...?
WHAT COULD CELLO HAVE POSSIBLY TOLD THEM...
...TO GET THEM STIRRED UP LIKE THAT?
...MY TRAY IS SO HEAVY THAT I'M RESTING
...THE "PAPARAZZI FIVE"? WHAT ARE THEY UP TO?
NO, THAT'S NOT IT...
SNEAK...
I DON'T THINK CELLO EVEN REALIZED THE REASON I BLUSHED...
SHE LOOKED BEWILDERED AT THE TIME...
...FIVE"!
...THE "POWER PAPARAZZI...
CAPTAIN, OUR THOUGHTS ARE ONE.
I CHANGED MY MIND.
FENNE, I THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T INTERESTED.
...AND IF FORTUNE SMILES ON US, DOCUMENTING IT WITH A PHOTO!
TO WITNESSING DR. GUELL'S RED FACE...
...THAT THE DOCTOR CAN ACTUALLY BLUSH.
YES.
SUDDENLY, I'M PSYCHED, TOO, ABOUT GETTING PROOF...

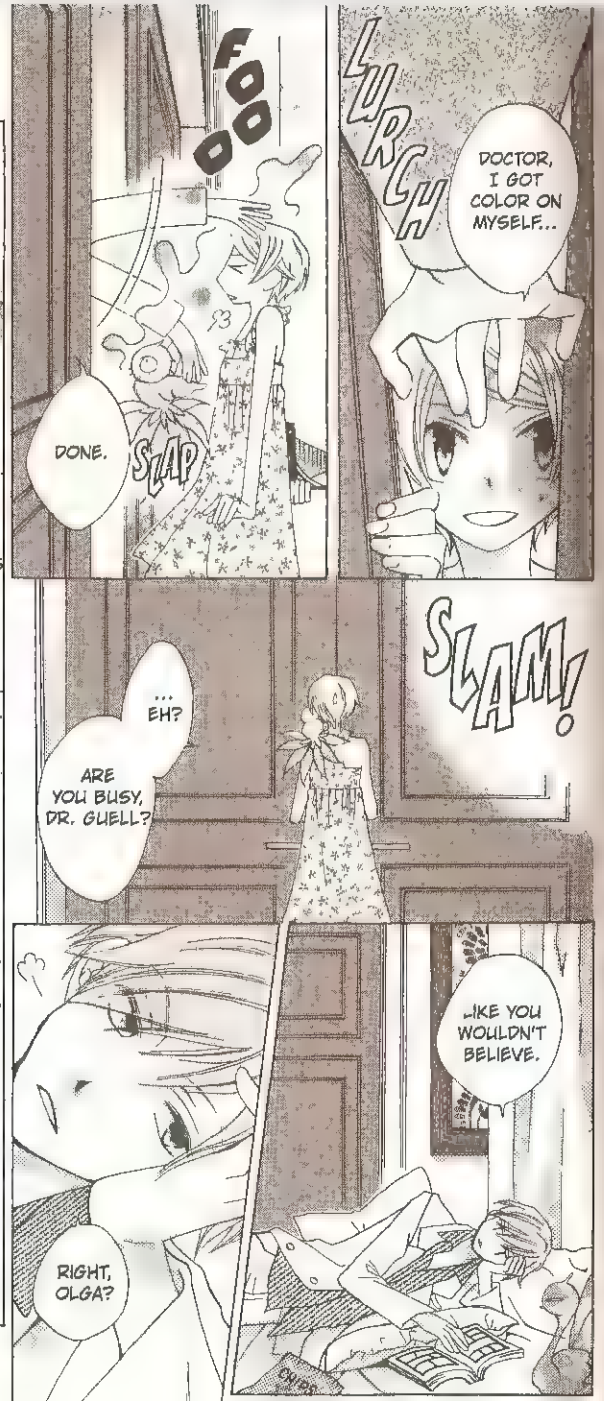
THE TARGET'S IN SIGHT!
I'LL GO FIRST!
POP
NOW FOR A FAKE COMPLIMENT!
Y'KNOW, SINCE THE LAST TIME WE VISITED, YOU'VE REALLY BECOME A HANDSOME DEVIL!
IF I WERE A WOMAN, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO RESIST!
THUMP THUMP...
GUELL!
HOW ABOUT TAKING A PIC? IT MUST BE YEARS SINCE YOUR LAST ONE!
WOW. HE LOOKED REALLY IRRITATED, BUT...
HAHA
HE MUST'VE GOTTEN UP ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE BED.
LET'S NOT LET ONE STRIKEOUT GET US DOWN. WE'VE GOTTA STAY ON THE ATTACK!

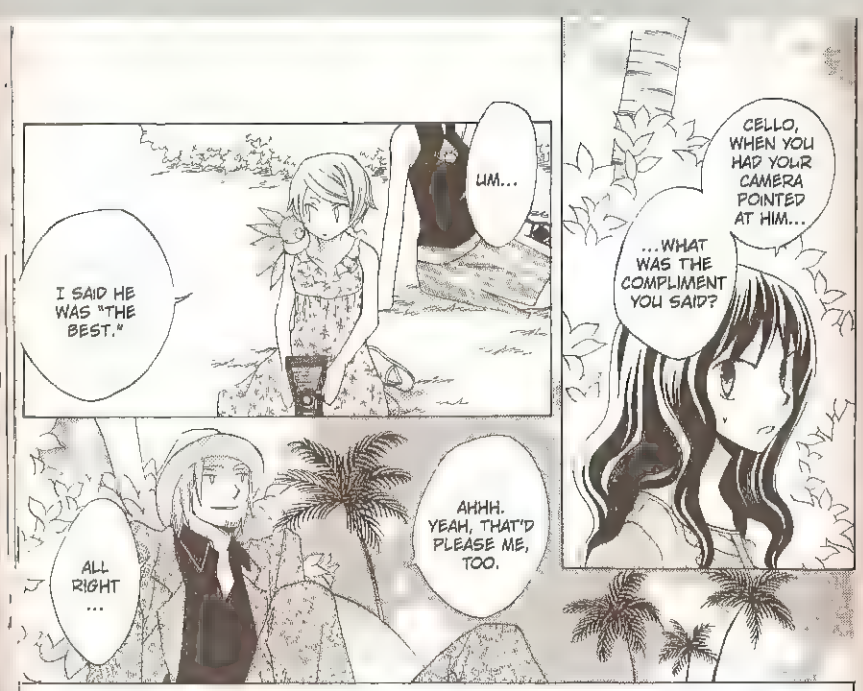
THE NEXT DAY ...
HMM
A SUPPLY OF WHAT LOOK TO BE REGULAR CAMERAS...
...BUT ARE ACTUALLY CLEVER FAKES.
THEN WHAT? I DON'T QUITE GET IT, BUT ARE THEY GOING TO TRY...
...TO MAKE ME BLUSH AGAIN, FOR FUN? IF THAT'S THE CASE...
HEY!
NOT A MOMENT TOO SOON!
EXCEPT FOR CELLO, WE'LL APPROACH HIM WITH THESE.
THIS IS GETTING TO BE MORE AND MORE FUN.
DON'T THINK WE DID IT OUT OF THE GOODNESS OF OUR HEARTS! WHEN IT'S OVER, GIVE US A COPY OF THE DOCTOR'S PHOTO, TOO. THAT, AND YOU OWE US FOR STAYING UP ALL NIGHT CREATING THEM.
CORRECTION. MERCHANTS WHO ARE GOOD AT CRAFTS.
THANKS, TRIPLETS!
WE JUST MAY PULL THIS OFF BECAUSE OF KIDS WHO ARE GOOD AT CRAFTS.

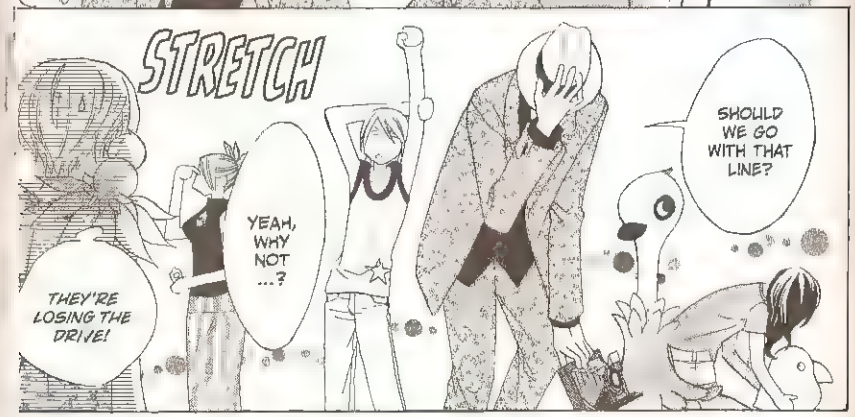
7

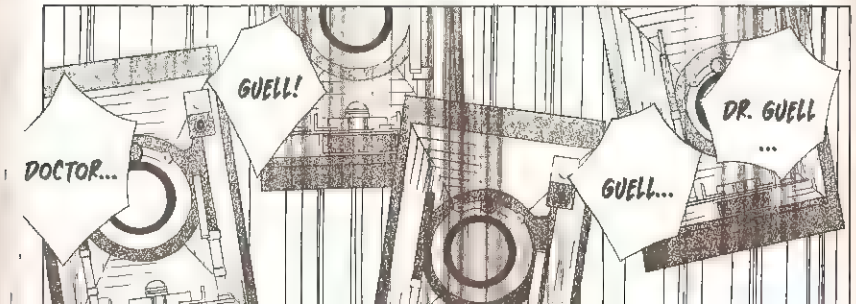
HERO TEAMS

WHEN I WAS A KID, I WATCHED MY SHARE OF HERO SHOWS. EVEN NOW, I CAN SING THE THEME SONGS OF SEVERAL OF THEM. FOR SOME REASON, MY IMAGE OF THE CHARACTER IN YELLOW GARB IS THAT HE LIKES CURRY, BUT AT SOME POINT, THE YELLOW COSTUMED CHARACTER WAS A WOMAN, RIGHT? I LIKED THAT SHE USED A BOW AND ARROWS AS HER WEAPON, BUT I RECALL THAT THE CHARACTER DIED MIDWAY THROUGH THE SEASON. WHAT AN UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENT THAT WAS! I ALWAYS MADE MY SUPERALLOY ROBOT FIGURE FIGHT WITH MY DRESS-UP DOLLS, BUT I ALSO ENJOYED WATCHING MAGICAL GIRL CARTOONS.
I STILL REMEMBER BEING DISAPPOINTED WHEN THE TRANSFORMATION WAND TOY THAT MY PARENTS BOUGHT ME ENDED UP BEING SO UNEXPECTEDLY HEAVY THAT I COULDN'T EVEN WAVE IT AROUND LIKE THEY DID IN THE CARTOON.

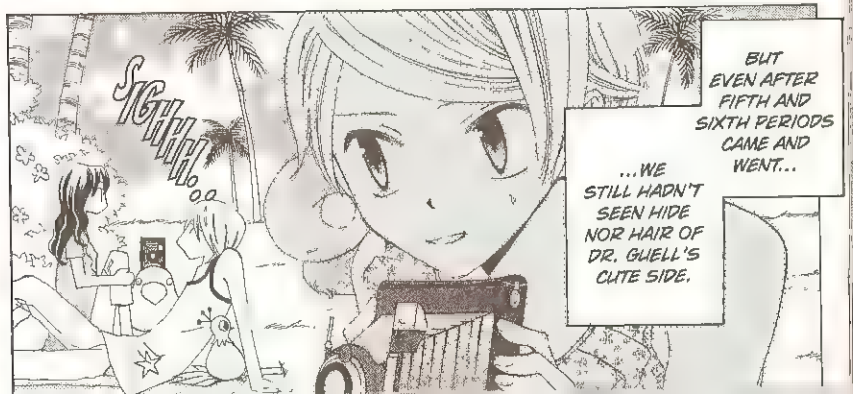


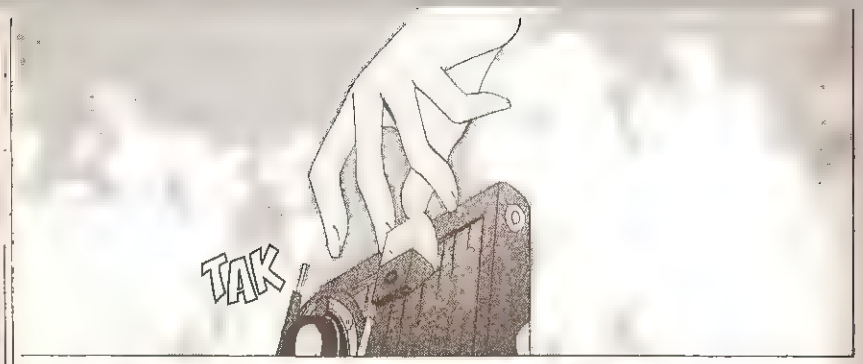

UM...
I SAID HE WAS "THE BEST."
CELLO, WHEN YOU HAD YOUR CAMERA POINTED AT HIM...
...WHAT WAS THE COMPLIMENT YOU SAID?
ALL RIGHT ...
AHHH. YEAH, THAT'D PLEASE ME, TOO.

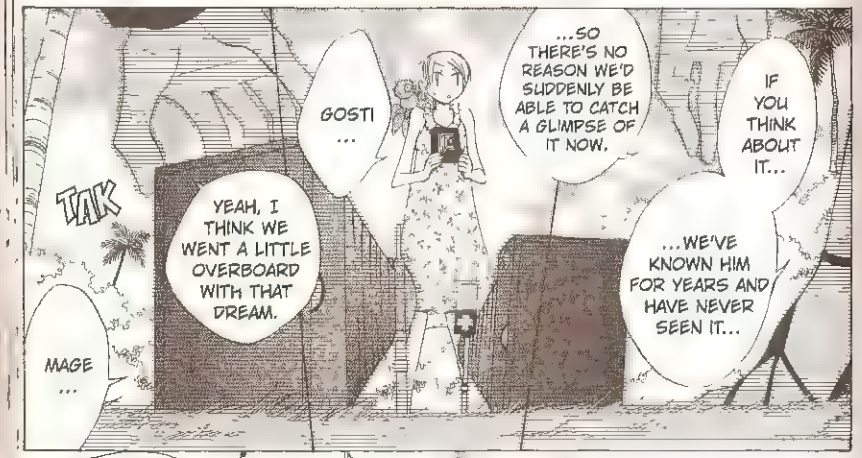

STRETCH
THEY'RE LOSING THE DRIVE!
YEAH, WHY NOT ...?
SHOULD WE GO WITH THAT LINE?

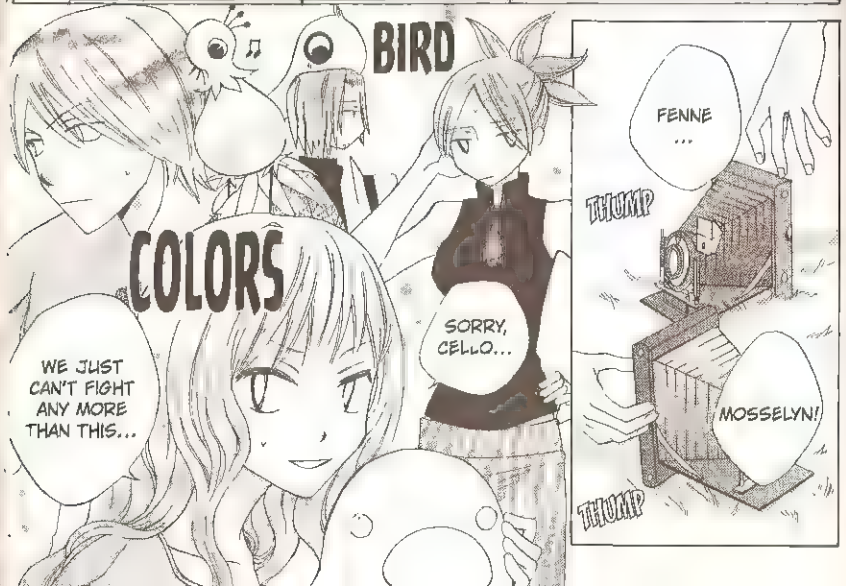

DOCTOR...
GUELL!
GUELL...
DR. GUELL ...

HSSS
HE'S NOT GIVING US ANYTHING TO WORK WITH!
COME ON, BIRD!
HOW LONG HAVE WE KNOWN EACH OTHER ?!
AFTER 2ND PERIOD ...
GULP GULP
4TH PERIOD
LUNCH
BUZZ
DR. GUELL'S NOT HERE!
BUZZ
I THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE OUR BEST SHOT ...
BUZZ
AFTER 3RD PERIOD...
WHY DON'T I JUST COLOR HIS FACE RED?
YOU REALLY DON'T CARE ABOUT THIS, DO YOU?

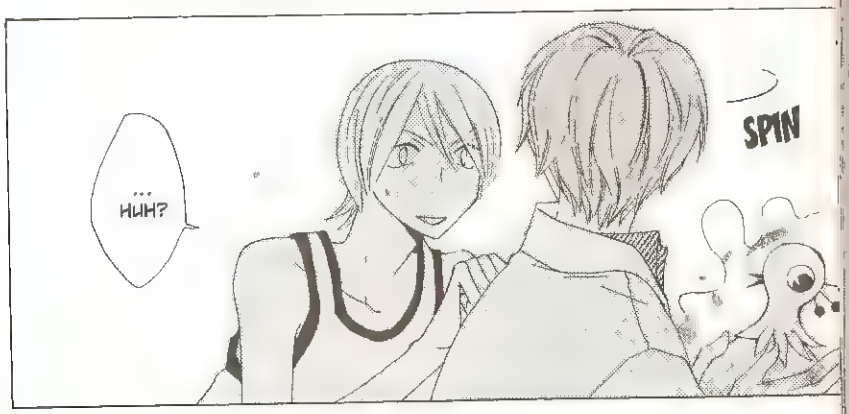

SIGHH...
BUT EVEN AFTER FIFTH AND SIXTH PERIODS CAME AND WENT...
...WE STILL HADN'T SEEN HIDE NOR HAIR OF DR. GUELL'S CUTE SIDE.

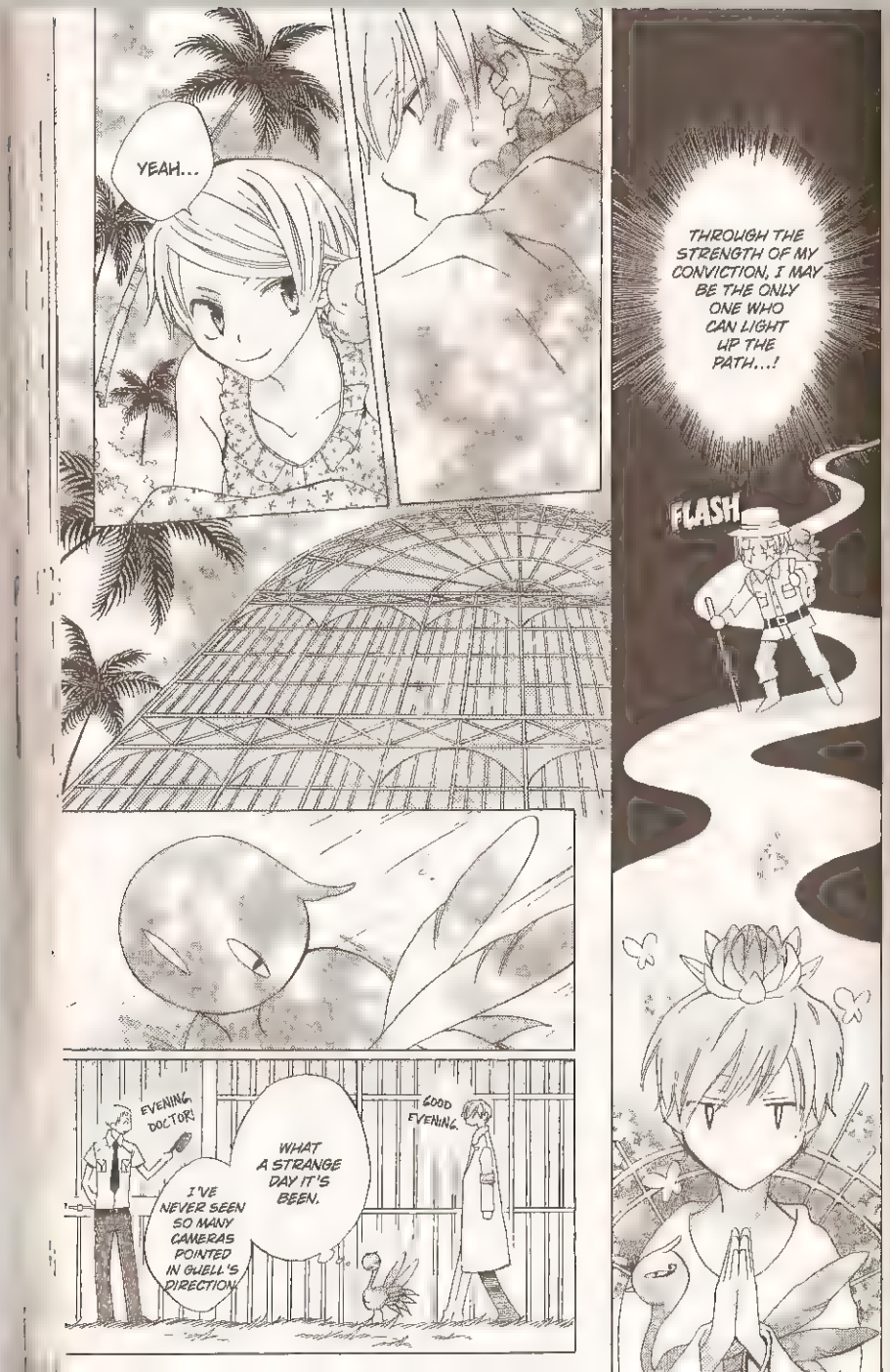

TAK

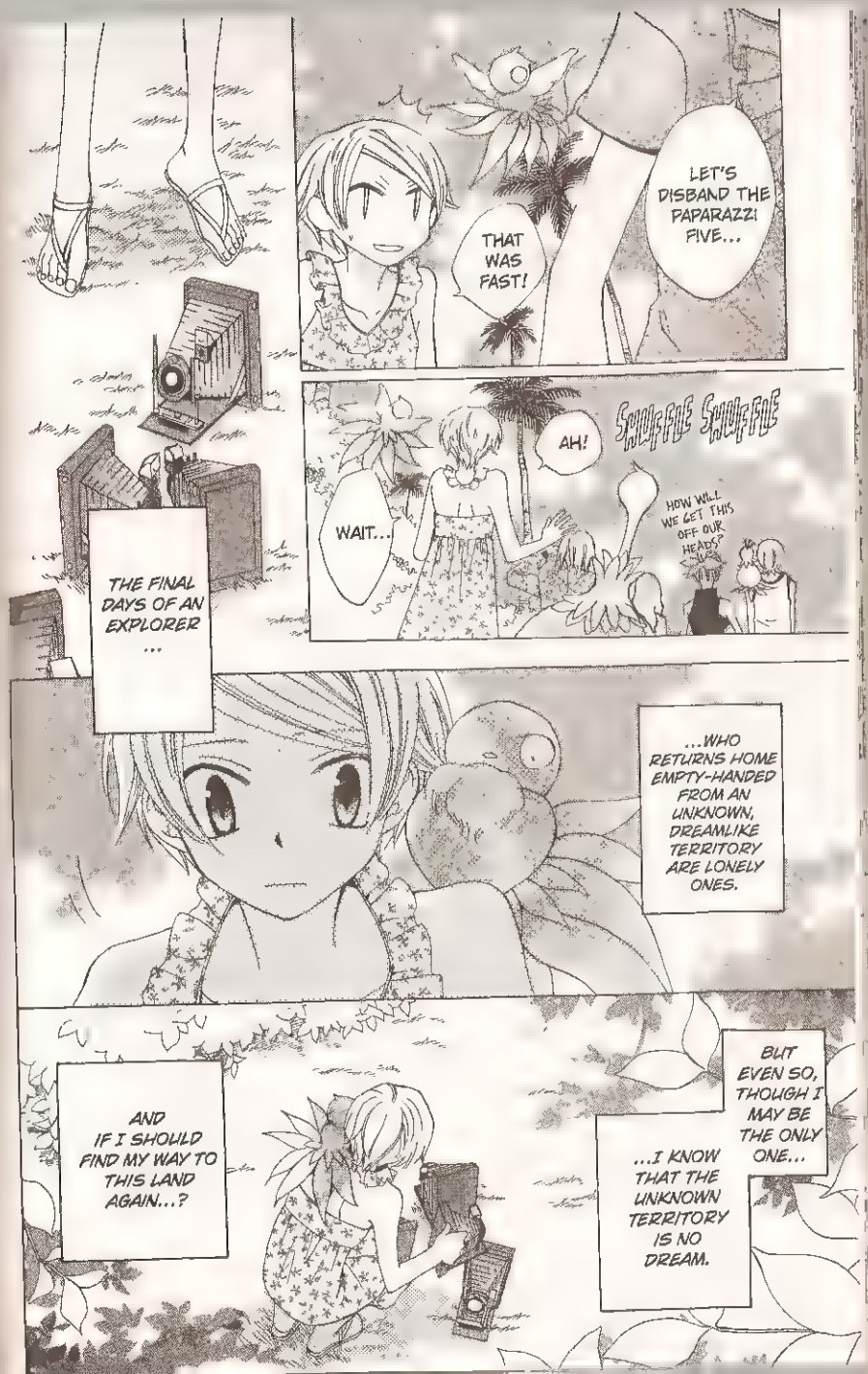

TAK
MAGE ...
YEAH, I THINK WE WENT A LITTLE OVERBOARD WITH THAT DREAM.
GOSTI ...
...SO THERE'S NO REASON WE'D SUDDENLY BE ABLE TO CATCH A GLIMPSE OF IT NOW.
IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT...
...WE'VE KNOWN HIM FOR YEARS AND HAVE NEVER SEEN IT...

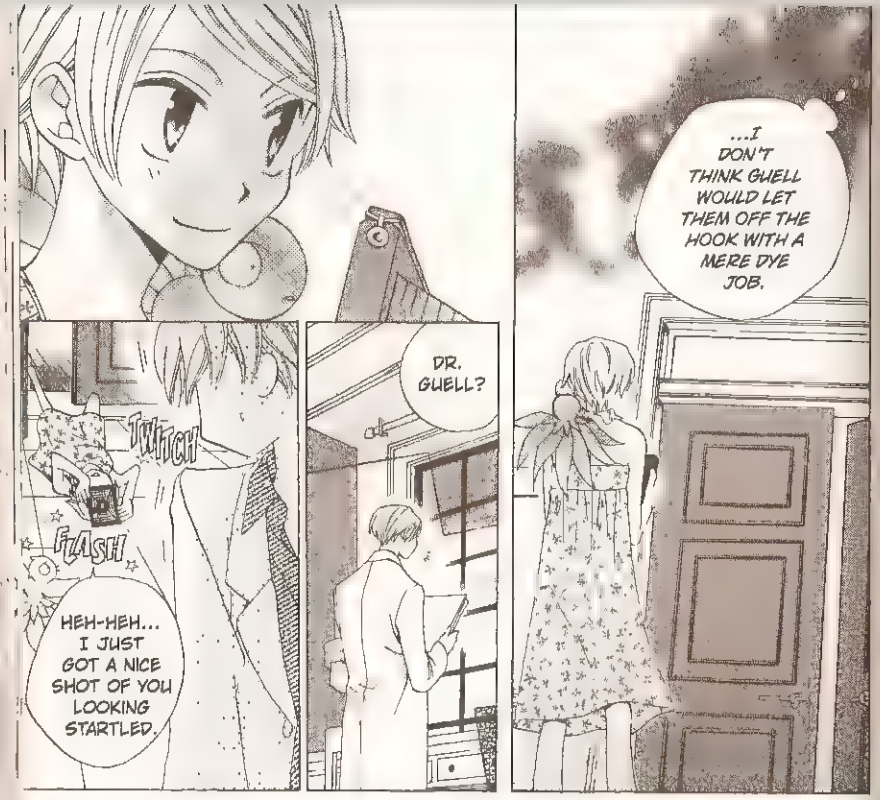

BIRD
COLORS
WE JUST CAN'T FIGHT ANY MORE THAN THIS...
SORRY, CELLO...
FENNE ...
THUMP
THUMP
MOSSELYN!

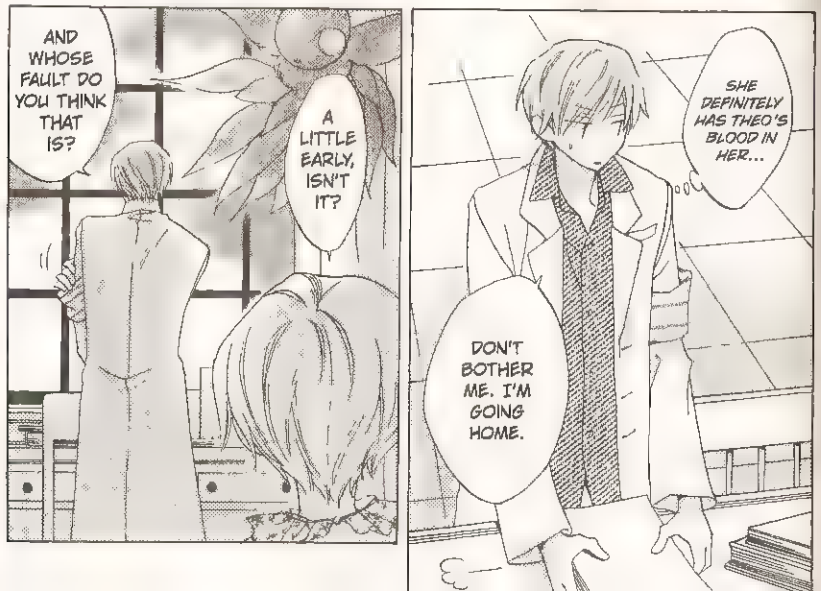
DOCTOR ...
YOU'RE THE BEST!
GRAB
COO!
BLACKIE!
FOOOO

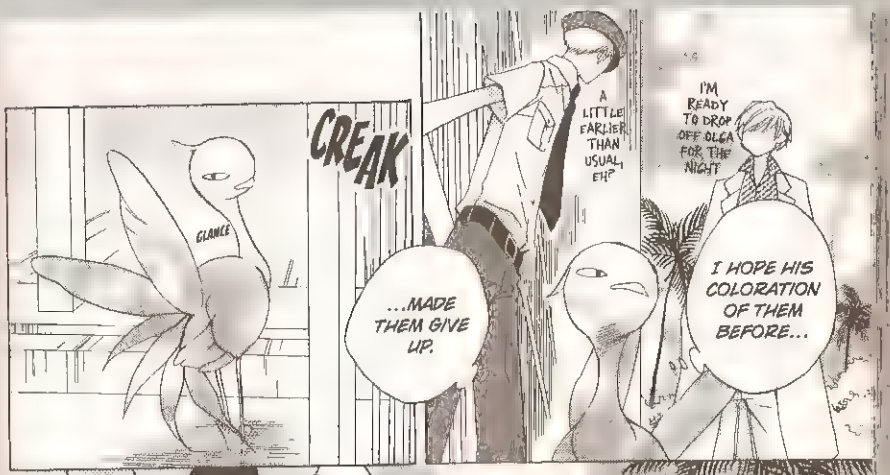

... HUH?
SPIN

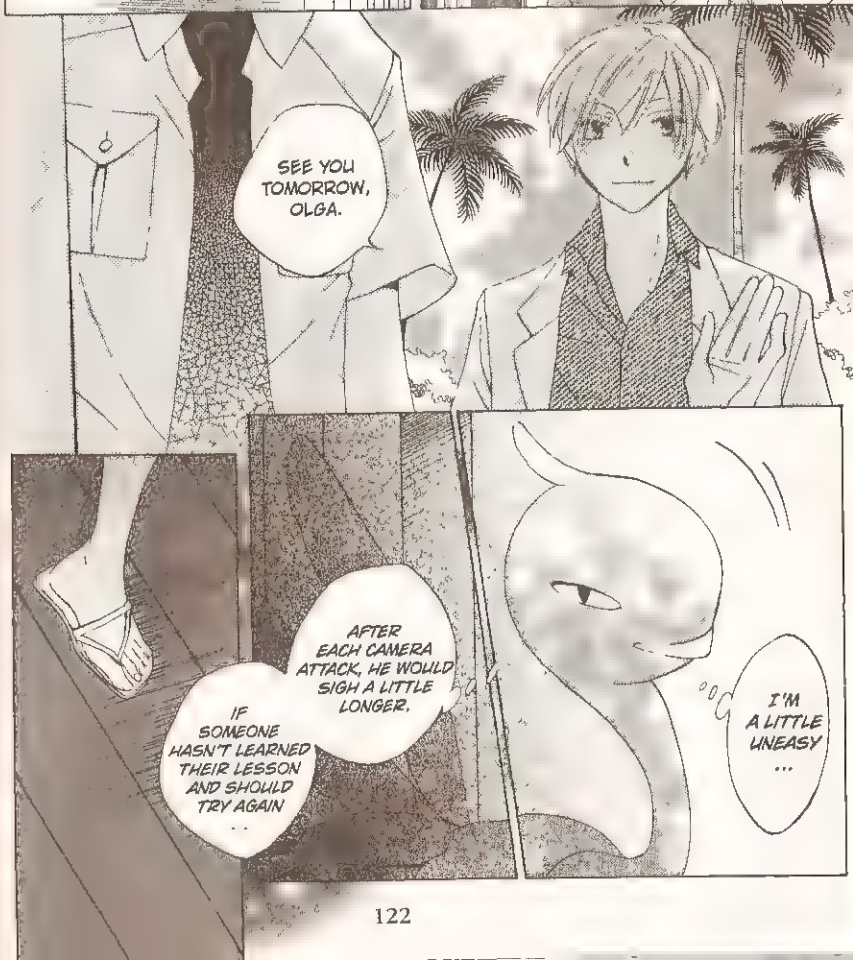

YEAH...
THROUGH THE STRENGTH OF MY CONVICTION, I MAY BE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN LIGHT UP THE PATH...!
FLASH
EVENING, DOCTOR!
I'VE NEVER SEEN SO MANY CAMERAS POINTED IN GUELL'S DIRECTION.
WHAT A STRANGE DAY IT'S BEEN.
GOOD EVENING.

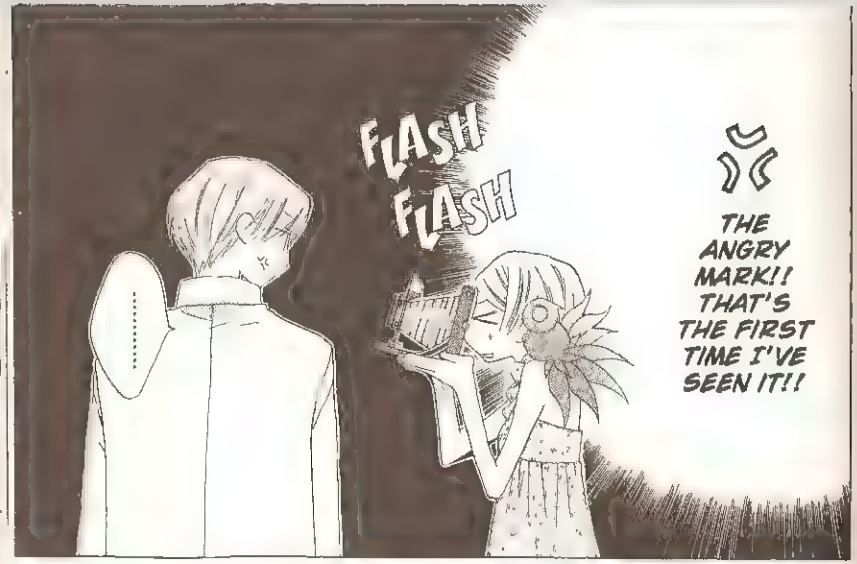

LET'S DISBAND THE PAPARAZZI! FIVE...
THAT WAS FAST!
AH!
SCRUFFLE SCRUFFLE
WAIT...
HOW WILL WE GET THIS OFF OUR HEADS?
THE FINAL DAYS OF AN EXPLORER ...
...WHO RETURNS HOME EMPTY-HANDED FROM AN UNKNOWN, DREAMLIKE TERRITORY ARE LONELY ONES.
AND IF I SHOULD FIND MY WAY TO THIS LAND AGAIN...?
...I KNOW THAT THE UNKNOWN TERRITORY IS NO DREAM.
BUT EVEN SO, THOUGH I MAY BE THE ONLY ONE...

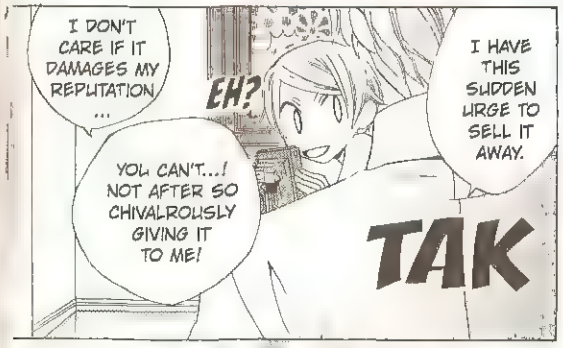

TWITCH
FLASH
HEH-HEH... I JUST GOT A NICE SHOT OF YOU LOOKING STARTLED.
DR. GUELL?
...I DON'T THINK GUELL WOULD LET THEM OFF THE HOOK WITH A MERE DYE JOB.

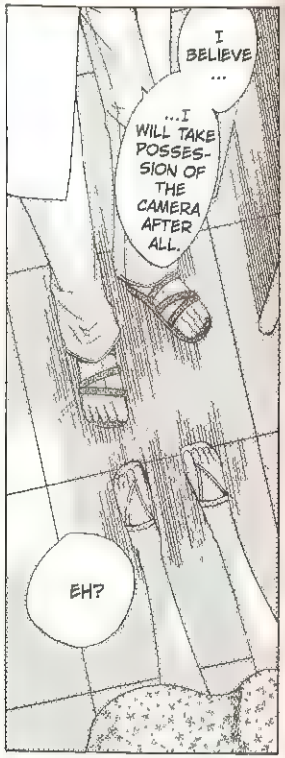

AND WHOSE FAULT DO YOU THINK THAT IS?
A LITTLE EARLY, ISN'T IT?
DON'T BOTHER ME. I'M GOING HOME.
SHE DEFINITELY HAS THEO'S BLOOD IN HER...

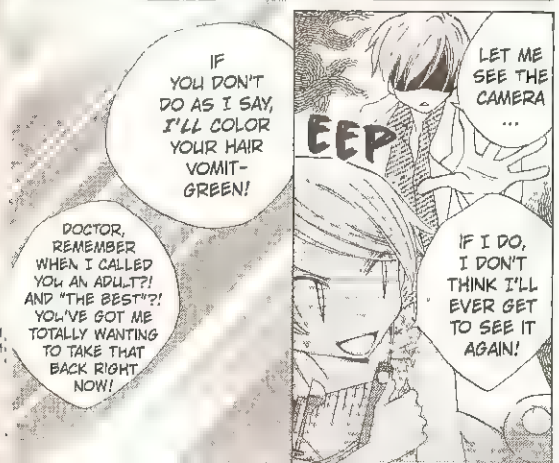

GLANCE
CREAK
...MADE THEM GIVE UP.
A LITTLE EARLIER THAN USUAL, EH?
I'M READY TO DROP OFF OLGA FOR THE NIGHT
I HOPE HIS COLORATION OF THEM BEFORE...

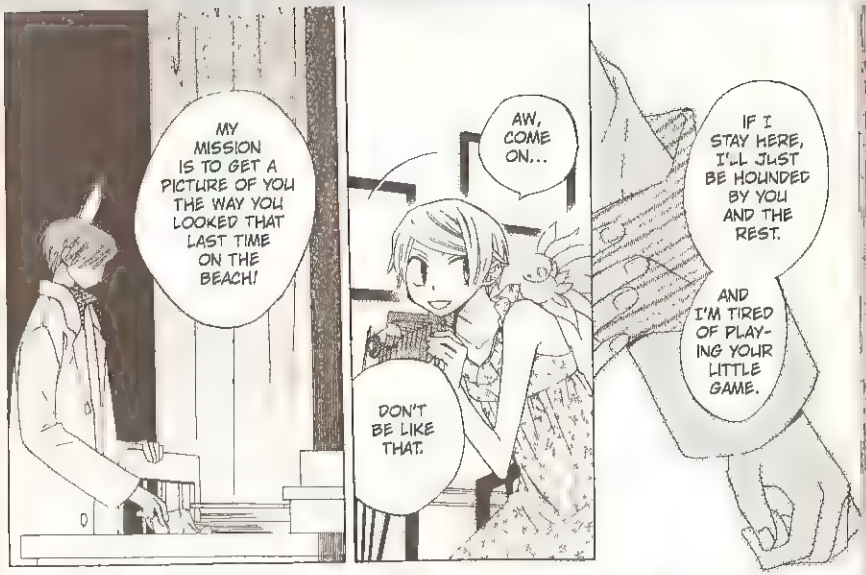

SEE YOU TOMORROW, OLGA.
AFTER EACH CAMERA ATTACK, HE WOULD SIGH A LITTLE LONGER.
IF SOMEONE HASN'T LEARNED THEIR LESSON AND SHOULD TRY AGAIN
I'M A LITTLE UNEASY ...

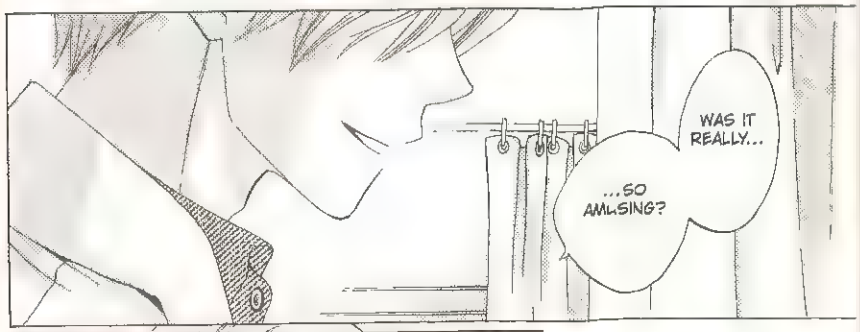

FLASH
FLASH
.....
THE ANGRY MARK!! THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN IT!!

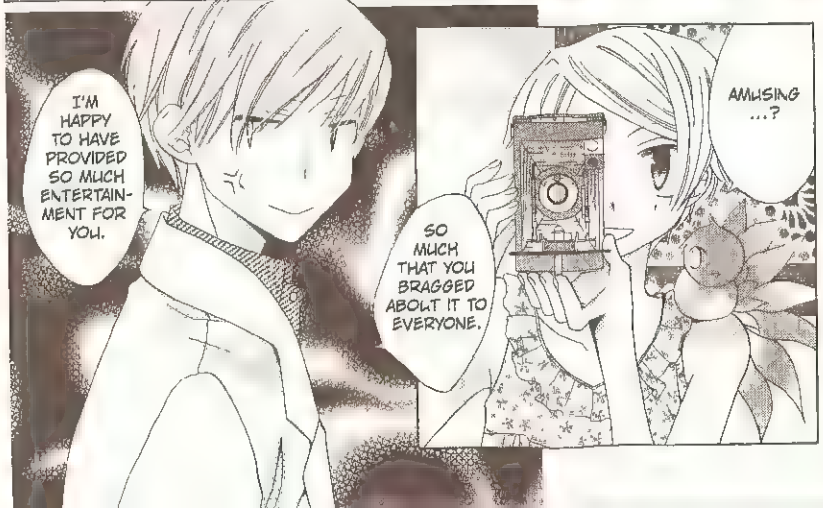

I DON'T CARE IF IT DAMAGES MY REPUTATION ...
EH?
I HAVE THIS SUDDEN URGE TO SELL IT AWAY.
YOU CAN'T...! NOT AFTER SO CHIVALROUSLY GIVING IT TO ME!
TAK

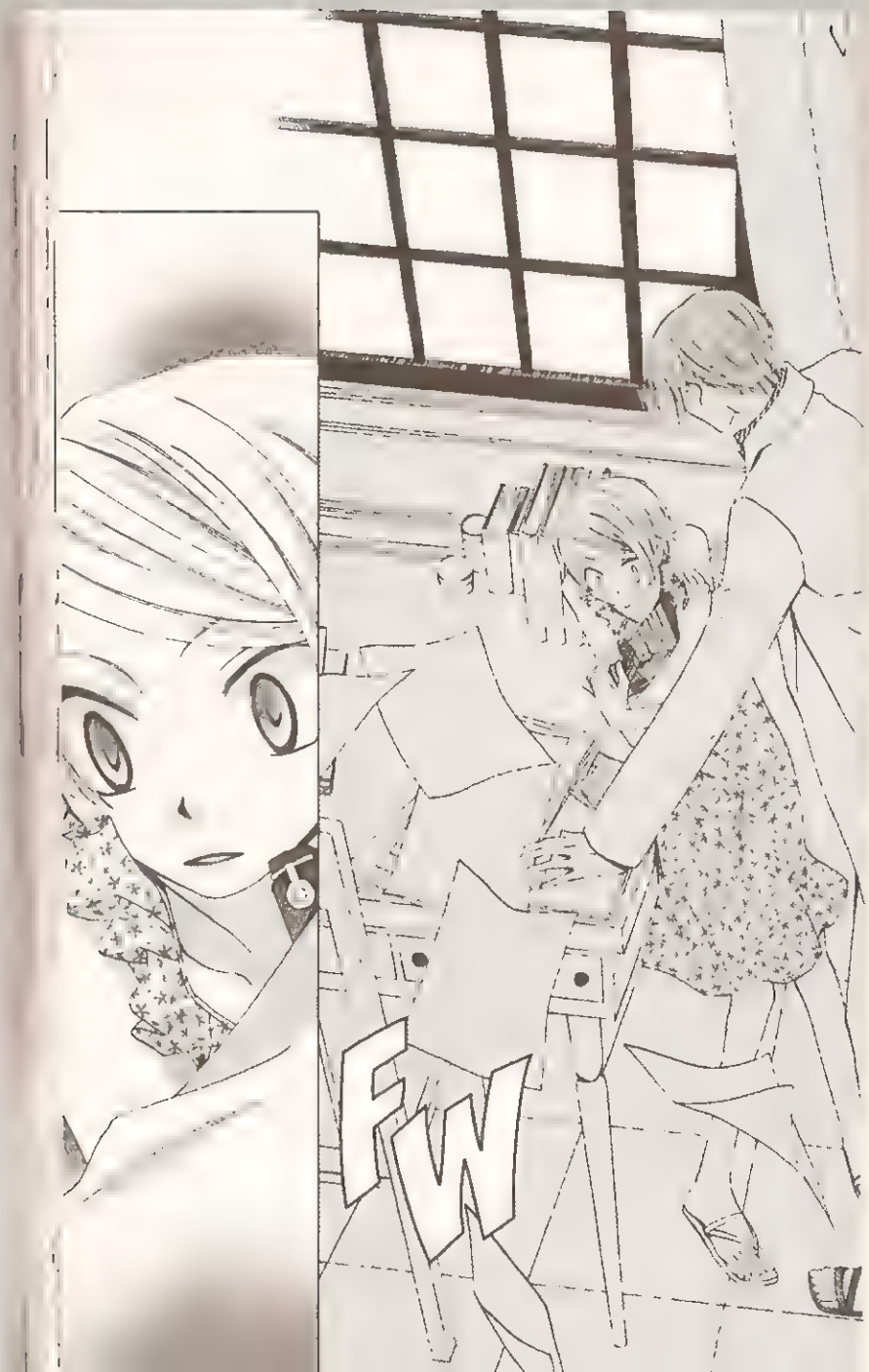

I BELIEVE ...
...I WILL TAKE POSSESSION OF THE CAMERA AFTER ALL.
EH?

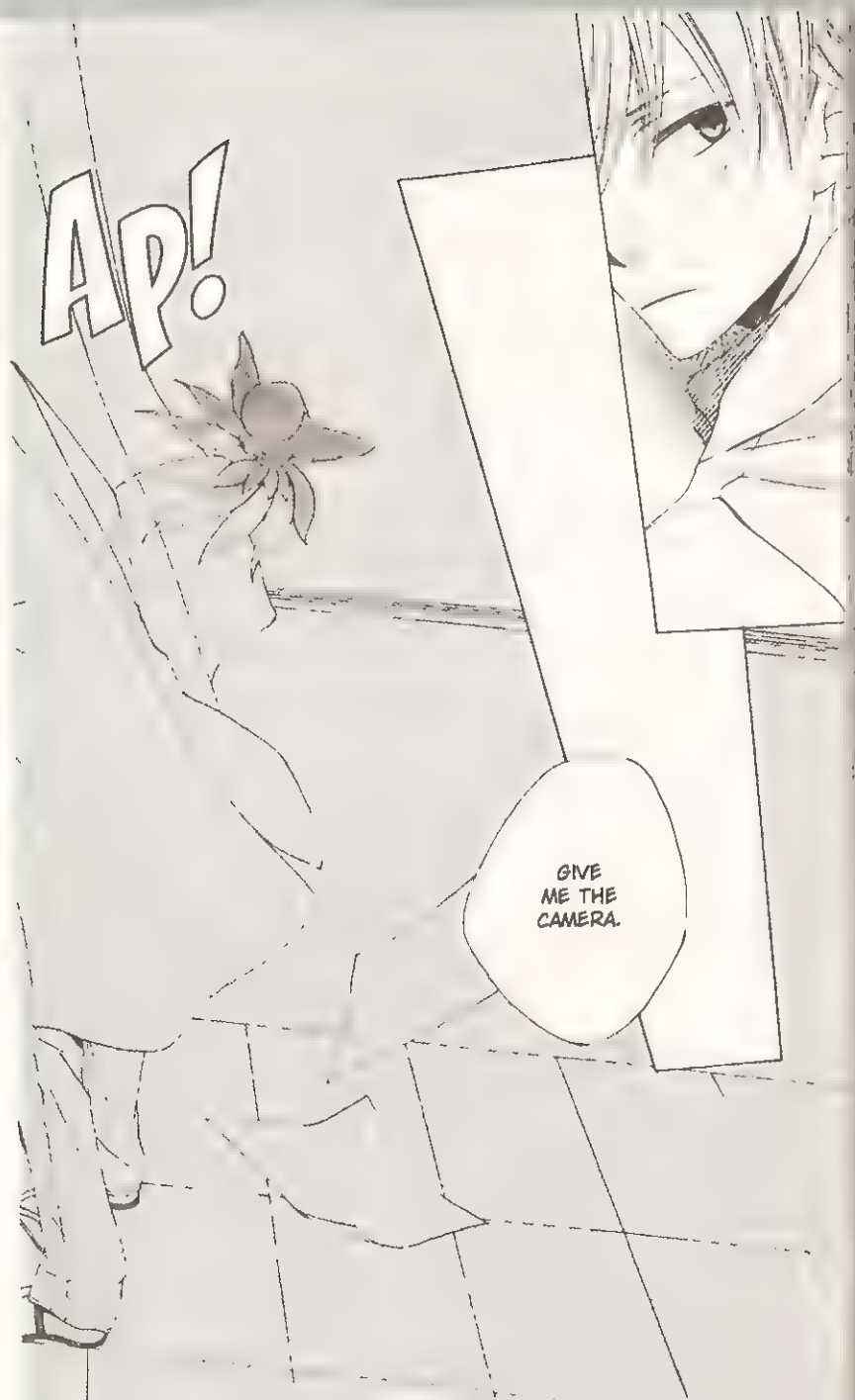

IF YOU DON'T DO AS I SAY, I'LL COLOR YOUR HAIR VOMIT-GREEN!
DOCTOR, REMEMBER WHEN I CALLED YOU AN ADULT?! AND "THE BEST"?! YOU'VE GOT ME TOTALLY WANTING TO TAKE THAT BACK RIGHT NOW!
EEP
LET ME SEE THE CAMERA ...
IF I DO, I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER GET TO SEE IT AGAIN!

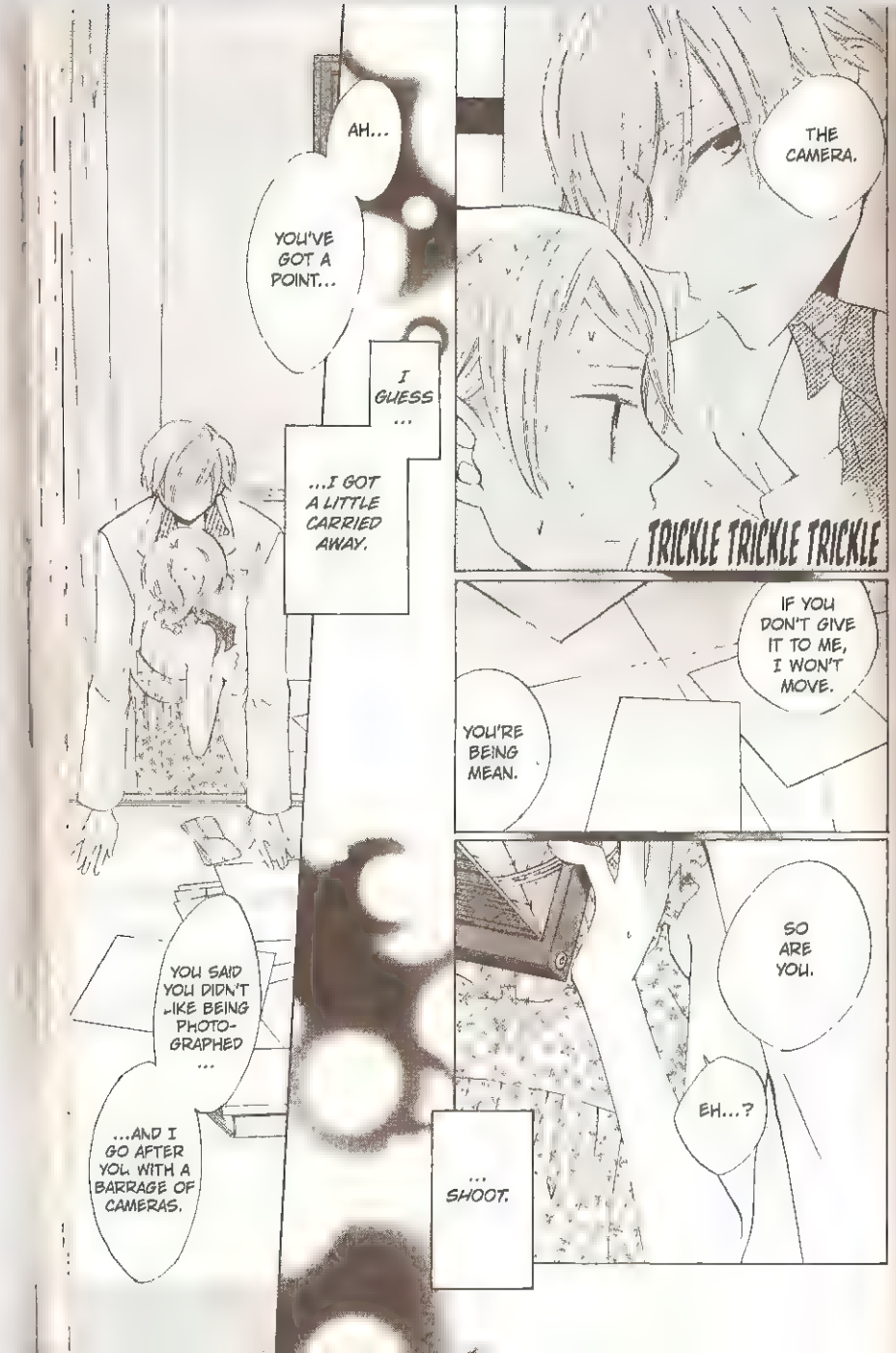

MY MISSION IS TO GET A PICTURE OF YOU THE WAY YOU LOOKED THAT LAST TIME ON THE BEACH!
AW, COME ON...
DON'T BE LIKE THAT.
IF I STAY HERE, I'LL JUST BE HOUNDED BY YOU AND THE REST.
AND I'M TIRED OF PLAYING YOUR LITTLE GAME.


WAS IT REALLY...
...SO AMUSING?


I'M HAPPY TO HAVE PROVIDED SO MUCH ENTERTAINMENT FOR YOU.
SO MUCH THAT YOU BRAGGED ABOUT IT TO EVERYONE.
AMUSING ...?

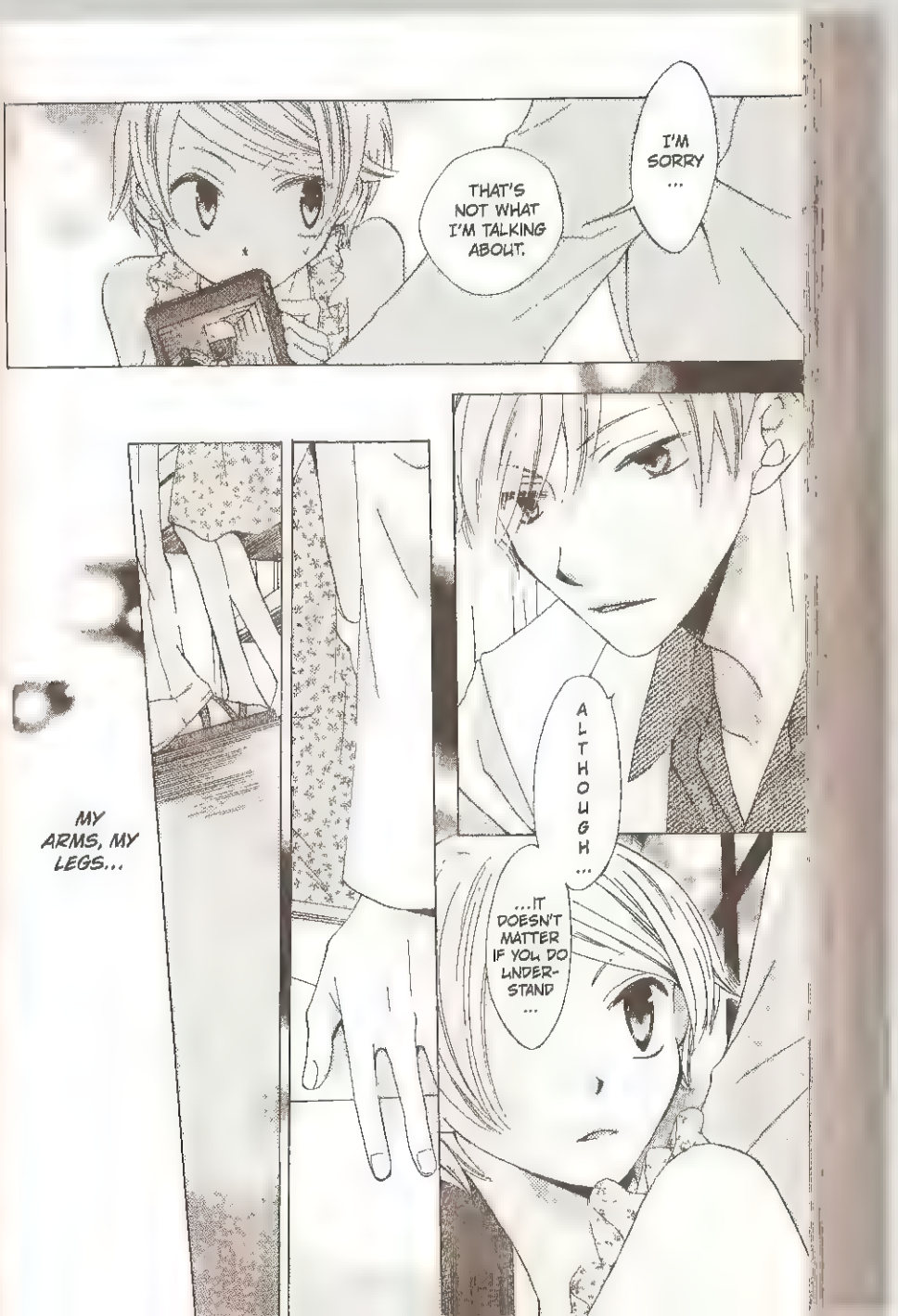

FW

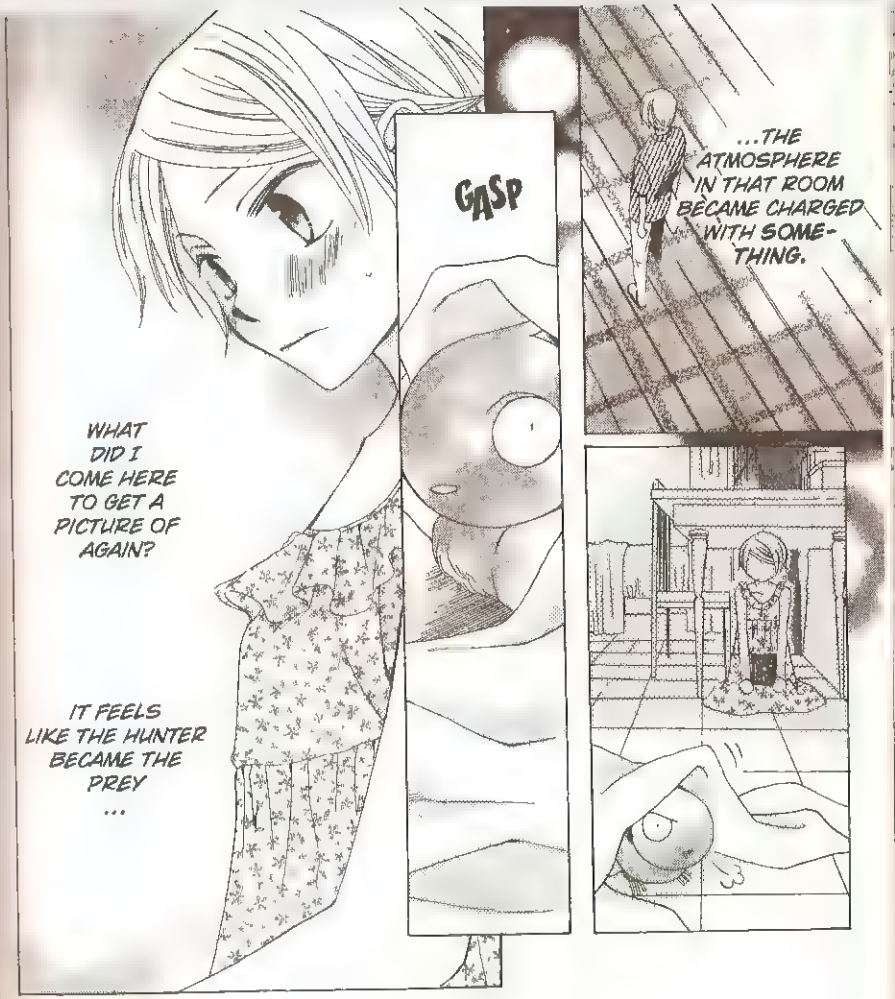

AP!
GIVE ME THE CAMERA.


AH...
YOU'VE GOT A POINT...
I GUESS...
...I GOT A LITTLE CARRIED AWAY.
THE CAMERA.
TRICKLE TRICKLE TRICKLE
IF YOU DON'T GIVE IT TO ME, I WON'T MOVE.
YOU'RE BEING MEAN.
SO ARE YOU.
EH...?
...SHOOT.
YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T LIKE BEING PHOTO-GRAPHED...
...AND I GO AFTER YOU WITH A BARRAGE OF CAMERAS.

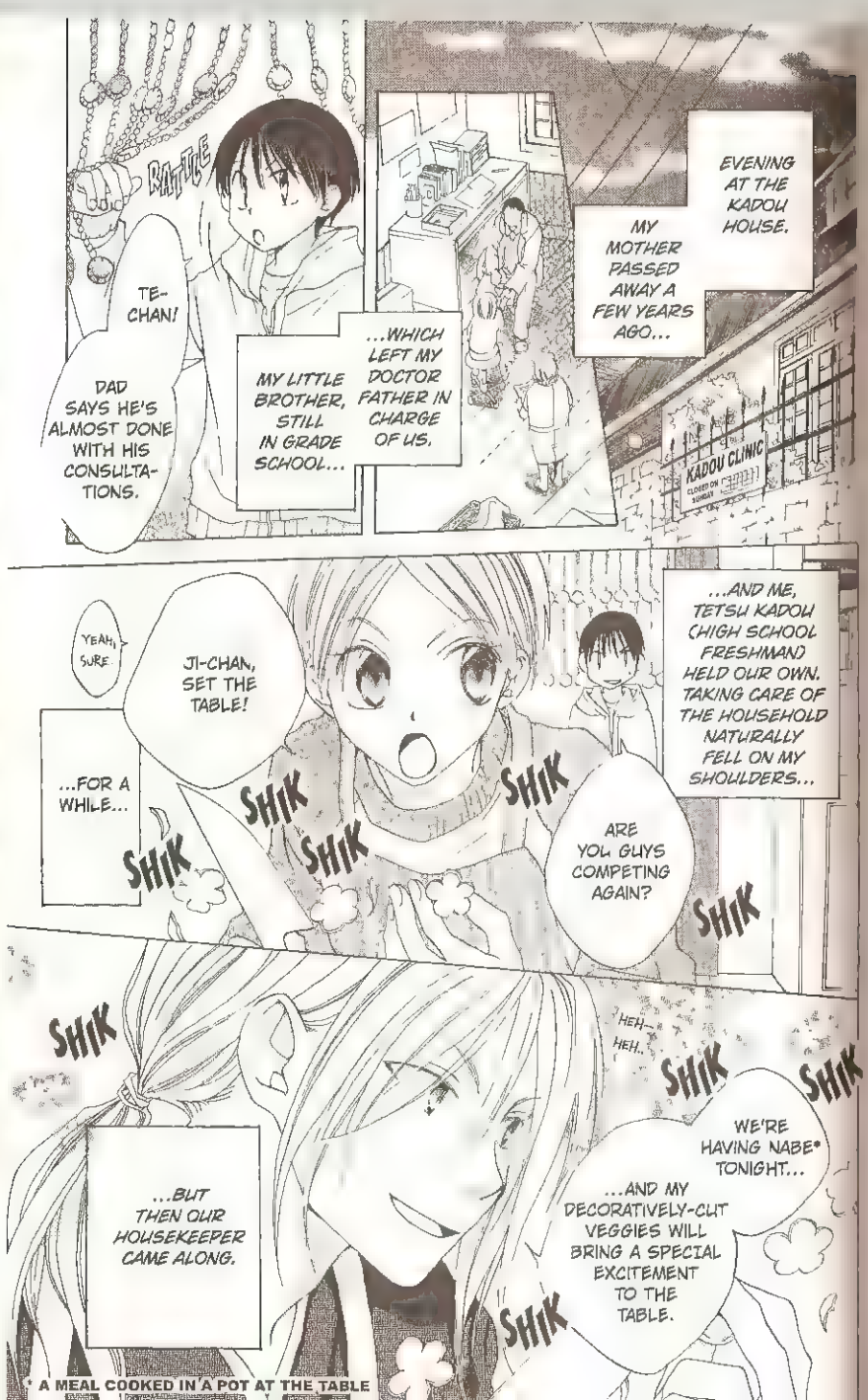
PECK PECK PECK
PECK PECK PECK
M...
MOVE, PLEASE.
NO.
WAAA! YOYO!!
FLOP
SNATCH!

HE DIDN'T TOUCH ME ANYWHERE...
ACTUALLY, I DON'T...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
WHAT ARE YOU ...
... TALKING ABOUT?
...BUT WHILE WE WERE STANDING THERE...

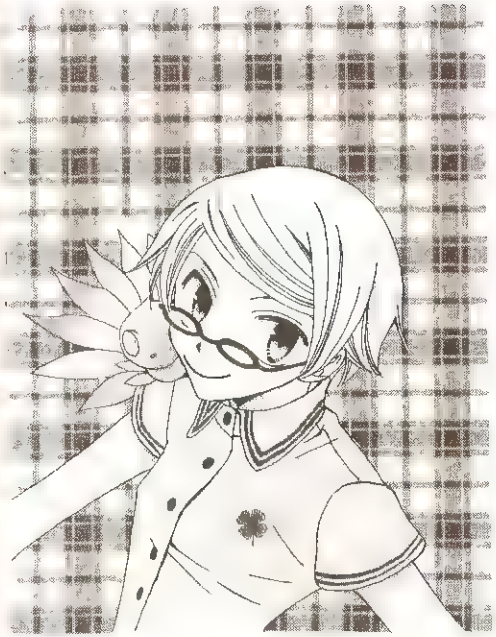

I'M SORRY ...
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.
MY ARMS, MY LEGS...
ALTHOUGH ...
...IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU DO UNDER-STAND ...

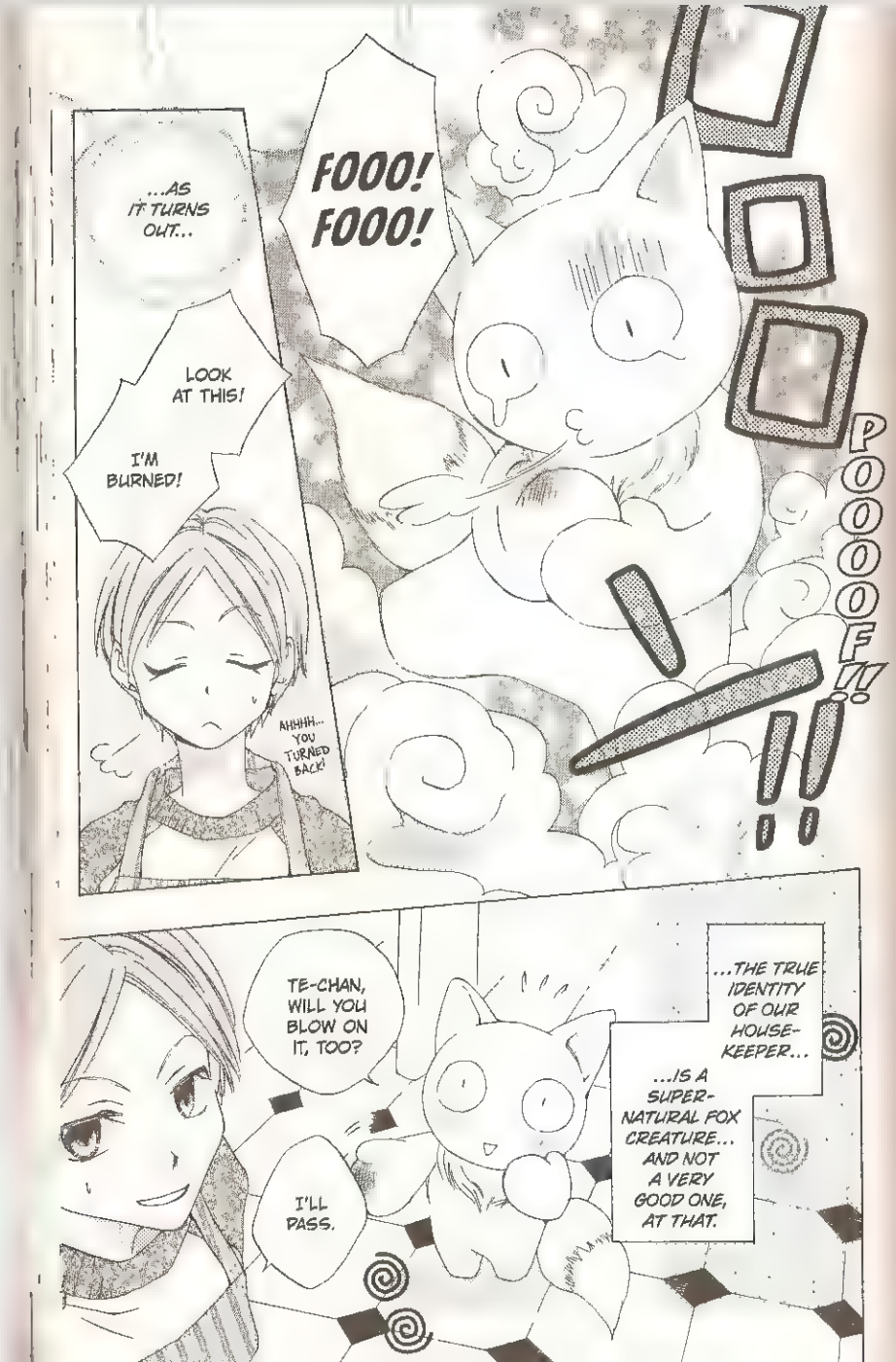

GASP
...THE ATMOSPHERE IN THAT ROOM BECAME CHARGED WITH SOME-THING.
WHAT DID I COME HERE TO GET A PICTURE OF AGAIN?
IT FEELS LIKE THE HUNTER BECAME THE PREY ...
WHAT IS IT THAT TOUCHED ME?

EPISODE 15: THE END


BATTLE
TE-CHAN!
DAD SAYS HE'S ALMOST DONE WITH HIS CONSULTATIONS.
MY LITTLE BROTHER, STILL IN GRADE SCHOOL...
...WHICH LEFT MY DOCTOR FATHER IN CHARGE OF US.
MY MOTHER PASSED AWAY A FEW YEARS AGO...
EVENING AT THE KADOU HOUSE.
KADOU CLINIC
CLOSED ON SUNDAY
...AND ME, TETSU KADOU (HIGH SCHOOL FRESHMAN) HELD OUR OWN. TAKING CARE OF THE HOUSEHOLD NATURALLY FELL ON MY SHOULDERS...
YEAH, SURE.
JI-CHAN, SET THE TABLE!
...FOR A WHILE...
ARE YOU GUYS COMPETING AGAIN?
SHIK
...BUT THEN OUR HOUSEKEEPER CAME ALONG.
HEH-- HEH..
WE'RE HAVING NABE* TONIGHT...
...AND MY DECORATIVELY-CUT VEGGIES WILL BRING A SPECIAL EXCITEMENT TO THE TABLE.
* A MEAL COOKED IN A POT AT THE TABLE

I can't imagine Cello with bad eyesight, so she probably has about 20/20 vision. Theo-kun's vision is probably even better than that.




FOOO! FOOO!
POOOOF!!
...AS IT TURNS OUT...
LOOK AT THIS! I'M BURNED!
AHHHH... YOU TURNED BACK!
TE-CHAN, WILL YOU BLOW ON IT, TOO?
I'LL PASS.
...THE TRUE IDENTITY OF OUR HOUSE-KEEPER...
...IS A SUPER-NATURAL FOX CREATURE... AND NOT A VERY GOOD ONE, AT THAT.

THE MAN KNOWN AS YOWA SHINODA WAS HIRED BY MY FATHER TO BE OUR LIVE-IN HOUSEKEEPER FOR ONE YEAR.
HE WAS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED BY THE HOUSEKEEPER INTRODUCTION AGENCY.
SHIK SHIK SHIK SHIK SHIK SHIK SHIK
HA! I'M GONNA BLOW YOU OUT OF THE WATER, TE-CHAN!
LOOK AT HOW MUCH MORE BEAUTIFUL MINE ARE CUT!
OOPS!
SPLISH
WAAA!
YOWA, IT'S BUBBLING OVER!
HIS HOUSE-KEEPING IS FAULT-LESS...
...AND HE'S GOOD-LOOKING ON TOP OF THAT.
HE COULD BE THOUGHT OF AS PERFECT. HOWEVER...
DRIP
CLIK
SSS!
AH!
AH!
THAT'S HOT!
WHUMP

IT ALL STARTED THE DAY YOWA FIRST CAME TO OUR HOUSE ...
KOFF
KOFF
KOFF
I GET A COLD THE DAY THE HOUSE-KEEPER COMES? WHAT BAD TIMING!
I DON'T WANNA BE A BURDEN TO HIM ON HIS FIRST DAY.
AH! THE HOUSEKEEPER'S THINGS CAME ALREADY?
DAZED...
HE SAID TO BOIL THE LEAVES OF ONE OF THESE PLANTS AND THEN DRINK IT TO BRING DOWN A HIGH TEMPERATURE ...
I REMEMBER HIM SAYING, "I'M A SURGEON, BUT I'M NOT GOING TO EVER LOSE TO A FEVER."
LET'S CHECK DAD'S HERB GARDEN...
SSS
SSS
CRUSH CRUSH
AH! THIS ONE, I THINK IT WAS...
THESE LEAVES..

COME ON, YOWA, BEFORE HE SEES YOU!
GIMME YOUR FOREHEAD ...
I'M TIRED OF THE PALM OF YOUR HAND.
OWW!
SLAP!!
FOOO
HEY, DID SOMEBODY SAY "BURN"?!
IS EVERYONE ALRIGHT?
TA TA TA TA TA
UH-OH! DAD'S HERE!
ONCE IN A WHILE, GIVE ME A KISS OR...

AND I...
...BECAME THE FOX'S "LEAF."
SORRY... I GOT A LITTLE CARRIED AWAY...
DAD, NO PROBLEM IN HERE!
PO
OF!

EMPTY
GONE
OH. YOU MUST BE THE HOUSE-KEEPER ...
...AND YOU'RE THE MANAGER OF THE AGENCY.
EH?!
WHAT'S WRONG?!
IT DOES HAVE A MEDICINAL EFFECT...
...BUT THAT POTTED PLANT...
...IS HIS.
HMPH ...
YOU BOILED THE LEAVES AND DRANK THE WHOLE THING, EH?
UM...

GONG
IT'S GONE...!!
I...
I'M SURE I PUT IT NEXT TO THIS BOX...
CHIEF, DO YOU KNOW WHERE IT MIGHT BE?
NO IDEA.
DON'T TELL ME SOME-BODY...
SNIFF...
AH!
GU
LP!
BITTER...

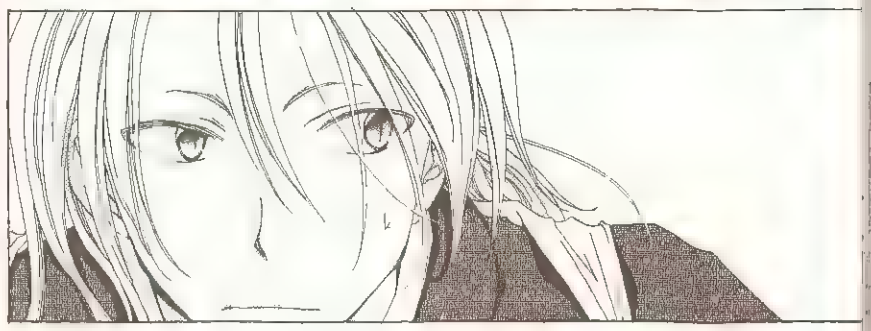
8

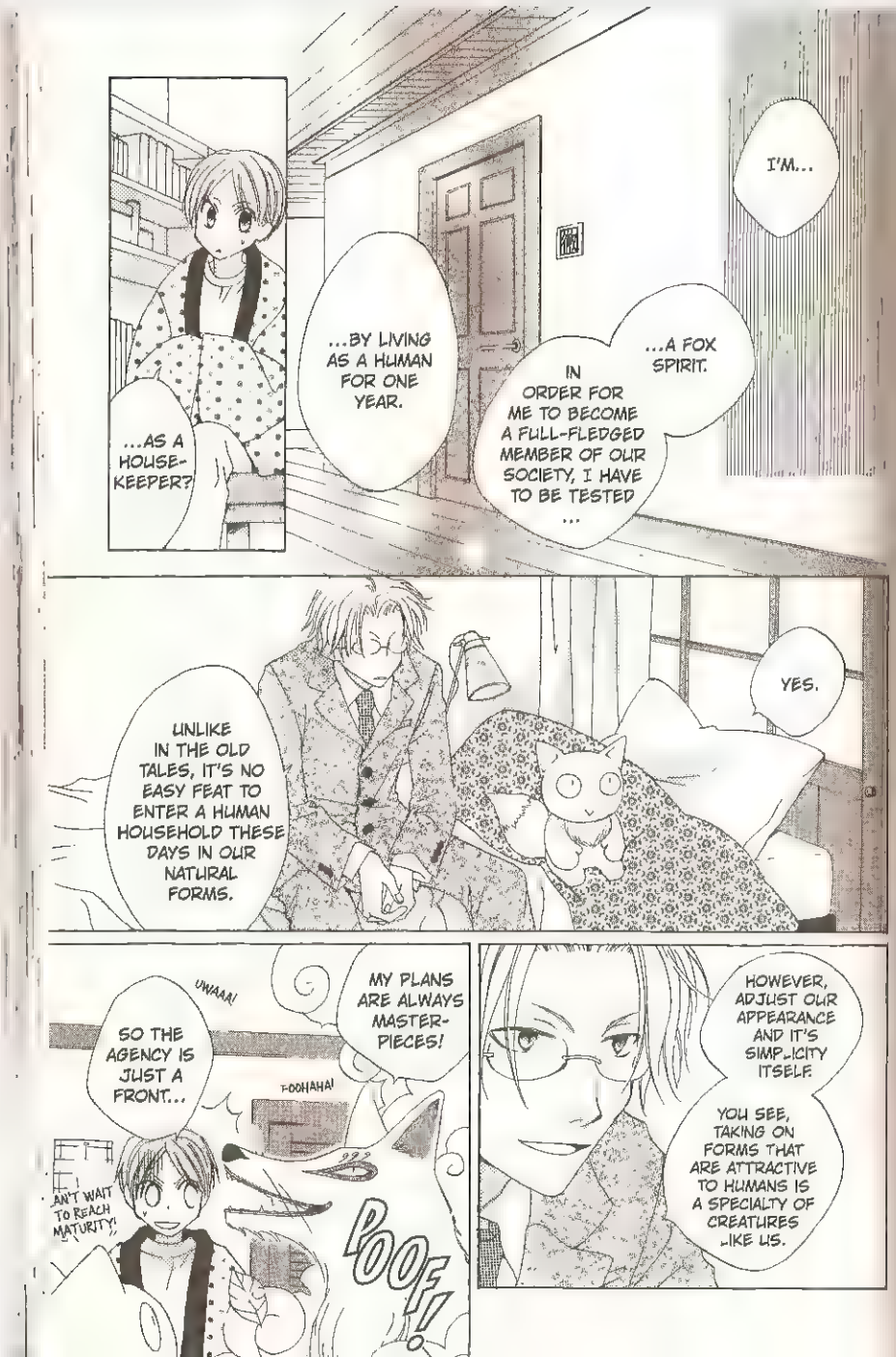
H/K

NOW I KNOW THAT IN JAPANESE (TEENAGE SLANG), H/K MEANS "*HANASHI GA KAWARU KEDO...*" ("THIS CHANGES THE SUBJECT, BUT..."), BUT AT THE TIME THIS ONE-SHOT STORY WAS PUBLISHED, I WAS TOTALLY IGNORANT ABOUT IT. SO WHENEVER I GOT A LETTER THAT HAD "H/K" IN IT, I THOUGHT IT MEANT THOSE WERE A HOUSE-KEEPER'S THOUGHTS, WHICH MADE ME HAPPY. WELL, NOW I KNOW FOR SURE THAT ALL THE "H/K'S" I GOT IN LETTERS MEANT "THIS CHANGES THE SUBJECT, BUT...". EVEN IF THE TEENAGERS FORGET THE MEANING OF H/K SOMEDAY, I'M POSITIVE I NEVER WILL.

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!
WHAT ...
FAREWELL, YOUNG LADY...
I'VE ALREADY FAILED AS A HOUSEKEEPER.
WAIT!
THIS IS MY FAULT!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "YOU'VE ALREADY FAILED"? PLEASE, EXPLAIN!
!
WHO KNOWS? MAYBE IT'LL PROVIDE YOU WITH AN OUT.
GO AHEAD. EXPLAIN TO HER.

...?
YOU'RE ...
...TAKING OFF POINTS? FOR WHAT? ANYWAY, IT'S MY FAULT!
I'M SORRY.
I REALLY THOUGHT IT WAS ONE OF DAD'S HERBAL PLANTS!
WHAT CAN I DO?
WELL.
YOWA'S HANDLING OF THE PLANT WAS CARE-LESS.
EHHH?!
NOT ONLY THAT, IT WAS THE MOST PRECIOUS OBJECT HE BROUGHT TO THIS HOUSE.
SOB
SOB
SWISH
!!
POK
I'M AFRAID TO SAY THAT'LL BE A MINUS NINE, AND ON YOUR FIRST DAY...




I'M...
...A FOX SPIRIT.
IN ORDER FOR ME TO BECOME A FULL-FLEDGED MEMBER OF OUR SOCIETY, I HAVE TO BE TESTED ...
...BY LIVING AS A HUMAN FOR ONE YEAR.
...AS A HOUSE-KEEPER?
YES.
UNLIKE IN THE OLD TALES, IT'S NO EASY FEAT TO ENTER A HUMAN HOUSEHOLD THESE DAYS IN OUR NATURAL FORMS.
MY PLANS ARE ALWAYS MASTER-PIECES!
UWAAA!
SO THE AGENCY IS JUST A FRONT...
T-OOHAHA!
CAN'T WAIT TO REACH MATURITY!
POOF!
HOWEVER, ADJUST OUR APPEARANCE AND IT'S SIMPLICITY ITSELF.
YOU SEE, TAKING ON FORMS THAT ARE ATTRACTIVE TO HUMANS IS A SPECIALTY OF CREATURES LIKE US.

YES?
YOUNG LADY, I...
GRAB
I THINK IT'LL BE EASIER TO UNDERSTAND IF I SHOW, NOT TELL, SO...
BOING
THIS IS MY TRUE FORM!
GYAAA!
?!
POOF!
PWIP
SPLAT

YES!
COOL, ISN'T IT...?
THEN THE FAIRY TALES ARE TRUE?!
TO CHANGE YOUR SHAPE, A LEAF HAS TO GO ON YOUR HEAD?!
LEAVES OF TRANS-FORMA-TION...
AH!
I'VE HEARD THAT IN THE CASE OF SOMEONE OTHER THAN A FOX INGESTING ALL OF THE "LEAVES OF TRANSFORMATION" ...
...THE LEAVES' POWER IS DIRECTLY PASSED ON.
...CAN WORK TO DRAW OUT OUR INNATE POWER OF TRANSFOR-MATION.
ONLY THE LEAVES OF A SINGLE PLANT, RAISED BY ONESELF ...
...WHEN THE TYPE OF PLANT IS ONE THAT HUMANS ALSO USE FOR MEDICINE...
...I GUESS IT'S NOT ALTOGETHER SURPRISING THAT SOME-THING LIKE THIS HAS HAPPENED.
SO WHAT SHOULD I DO?!
THERE-FORE...

THAT'S RIGHT.
RIGHT OFF THE BAT!!
THEN YOU ONLY HAVE ONE POINT LEFT?!
10
9
1
1
IF MY COVER IS BLOWN OR IF I GET INTO TROUBLE, POINTS ARE TAKEN OFF. ON THE OTHER HAND, DOING MY JOB WELL EARNS ME MORE POINTS.
THE TEST IS RUN ON A POINT SYSTEM. I START WITH TEN.
1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10
AND ...
...LOSING THAT LAST POINT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME.
HAND
PLUS, AS OF NOW, YOWA HAS LOST THE ABILITY TO CHANGE AT WILL.
THE CHIEF HERE IS SUPERVISING MY TEST, SO WHEN HE SAID "MINUS NINE" BEFORE, THAT MEANT THE NUMBER OF POINTS HE WAS TAKING OFF.
EH?
HE NEEDS THE "LEAVES OF TRANSFORMATION" ...
...WHICH YOU BOILED AND DRANK AS A KIND OF TEA.

...BUT I PROMISE TO WORK AS HARD AS I CAN...
YOU PROBABLY FEEL TRICKED...
...FOR HIRING A HOUSEKEEPER AND GETTING A FOX...
...SO PLEASE...
...HELP ME.
.....
POOF!
REGARDING OUR CO-EXISTENCE WITH HUMANS...
IT'S MY DAD!
SHINODA-SAN!
STALL HIM!
TRICKLE...
HEY!
DON'T CRY!

IN OTHER WORDS ...
...I'M THE "TRANSFORMING LEAF"?
GULP
I HAVE TO GET ON YOUR HEAD?
UM...
HOP HOP
I'M SURE ALL IT WILL TAKE IS A TOUCH FROM YOU ON HIS HEAD...
OH
...TO TRIGGER THE TRANS-FORMA-TION.
BOW

RATTLE
ARE YOU SURE NO ONE WAS REALLY BURNED?
WHICH BRINGS US BACK TO NOW...
I'LL HELP YOU.
HEH-HEH
I THINK HE'S FINE, DAD.
SORRY FOR SCREAMING.
...WHERE HE'S STILL HOLDING ON TO THAT LAST POINT FOR LIFE.
OH, THIS.
UWAAA! YOUR FOREHEAD IS RED, SHINODA-KUN!
THAT IS A BAD BURN!

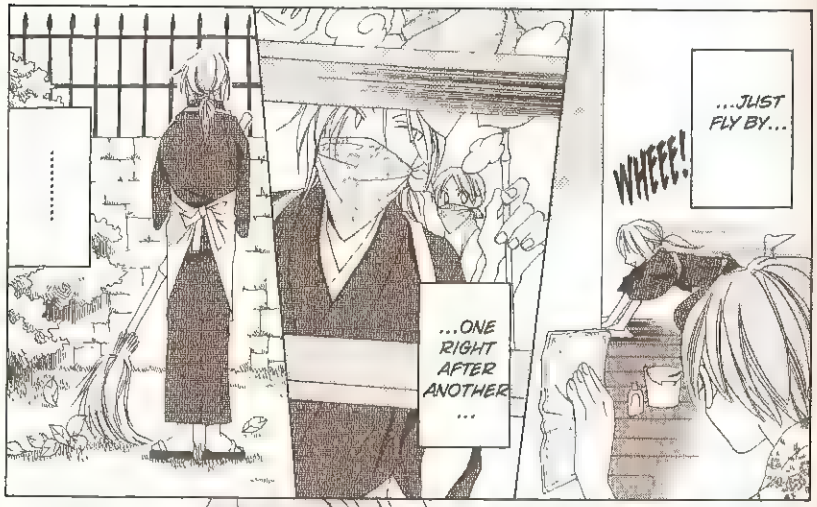
I WANT TO BECOME A FULL-FLEDGED FOX.
RUB RUB
GULP
SHIN-ODA-SAN!
ARE YOU HERE?
TAP TAP
...EVEN IF OUR IDENTITIES ARE REVEALED ...
...IT'S NOT A BIG PROBLEM, F THE S TLATION CAN BE RESOLVED AMICABLY...
...BUT HE ONLY HAS ONE POINT LEFT.
OKAY.

YOUR TEA IS READY
BRAVO, KADO-SAN!
FLOWERS FROM A CANE?!
FWOOP
HA!
CHARARA
CHARARI
HUH?
JI-CHAN, THAT'S GREAT!
I CAN DO A LITTLE, TOO!
FLAP FLAP FLAP FLAP
SHINODA, DIDN'T YOU KNOW?
NO, I DIDN'T KNOW!
MAGIC IS DAD'S HOBBY!
A SHOW?
EVERY YEAR, I PUT ON A MAGIC SHOW THERE.
...AND THAT MEANS THE BIG EVENT AT CITY HALL.
WE'RE GETTING PRETTY CLOSE TO NEW YEAR'S EVE...

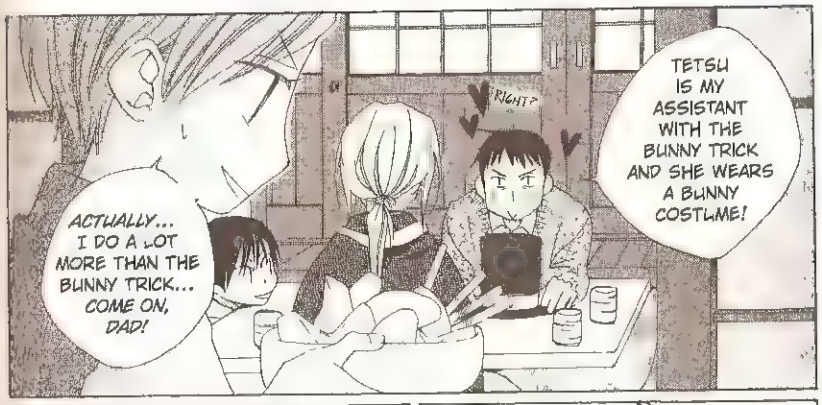
SO, I'VE BECOME...
TA TA TA TA
YES, YES. BUT I'M NOT GIVING UP THE KITCHEN TO HIM WITHOUT A FIGHT!
ANY-WAY, TETSU ...
...I HIRED SHINODA-KUN BECAUSE I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS FAIR TO TAKE UP YOUR TIME WITH HOUSEHOLD DUTIES...
I'M SORRY. IT SEEMS THAT MY HOUSEKEEPING LEAVES HER WITH NOTHING TO DO.
REALLY? IN FACT, IT AROUSES HER JEALOUSY.
BUT THE MAIN THING IS, I'M NOT GOING TO LET HIS ARROGANCE GO UNCHECKED!
BESIDES, I NEED TO BE NEAR TO COVER UP IF HE HAS AN INADVERTENT "IDENTITY REVEAL" ...
...THE "TRANSFORMING LEAF"...
...AND I'M RESOLVED TO "TRANSFORM" YOWA INTO A MATURE FOX...SPIRIT CREATURE.

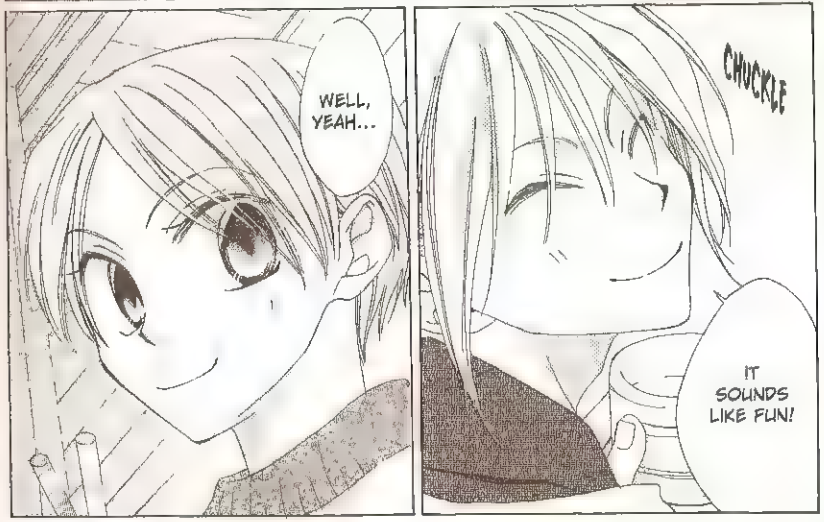
DANGLE
DROOP
IT'S A STUFFED ANIMAL!
AH!
HERE, HOLD IT!
EH?!
EH?!
FLAIL
FLAIL
HMMM... WELL, I WAS GOING TO MAKE TRADITIONAL NEW YEAR'S FOOD...
IN THAT CASE, COME TO THE SHOW.
THE PROGRAM FEATURES OTHER PERFORMERS AND BANDS AS WELL, SO IT'S A LOT OF FUN.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT. NEW YEAR'S. MAYBE YOU ALREADY HAVE PLANS?
WHY DON'T YOU COME, SHINODA-KUN? I'M SURE...
YEP.
WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS THE POWER OF PERFORMANCE.
YOU HAVE TO MAKE MAGIC SEEM MAGICAL.
IT WORKS WELL WITH CHILDREN WHO DON'T WANT TO BE TREATED!
RIGHT!
HAHA!
I SEE.
AND DON'T FORGET TO BRING A CAMERA.

YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO HOLD A RABBIT BY IT'S EARS.



A SUIT...
POOF!
YOUR BOSS WEARS ONE, RIGHT?
YOU KNOW, LIKE A SUIT OR...
WHY DON'T YOU TRY TRANSFORMING INTO DIFFERENT CLOTHES FROM TIME TO TIME?
YOWA, IS THAT MEANT TO BE YOUR HOUSEKEEPER UNIFORM?
THAT'S RIGHT!
POOF!
PAT
A SUIT...


ACTUALLY... I DO A LOT MORE THAN THE BUNNY TRICK... COME ON, DAD!
RIGHT?
TETSU IS MY ASSISTANT WITH THE BUNNY TRICK AND SHE WEARS A BUNNY COSTUME!



DI	JEUDI	VENDREDI	SAMEDI	DIMANCHE
	2	3	4	5
	9	10	11	12
	16	17	18	19

THE DAYS...

DECEMBER ALWAYS SEEMS LIKE THE FASTEST MONTH OF THE YEAR.

NEW YEAR'S EVE
BUZZ BUZZ
YOU DON'T LOOK ANY DIFFERENT THAN THE LAST TIME I SAW YOU, YOWA.
BUZZ BUZZ BUZZ
THEIR MAGIC SHOW IS SUPPOSED TO START AT NINE O'CLOCK...
KADOU-SENSEI IS GOING TO PERFORM AGAIN THIS YEAR, ISN'T HE?
MY KIDS WOULDN'T MISS IT!
HONEST-LY!
CHIEF...? ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE A ROCK STAR?
CH...
WOW..
THE LEAST YOU CAN DO IS PROVE YOU CAN TRANSFORM WITH A DIFFERENT SET OF CLOTHES!

I SEE...
I'M NOT VERY GOOD YET AT CHANGING INTO SOMETHING OTHER THAN MY USUAL APPEARANCE.
JUST LIKE A NOVICE...
POOF!
EHHH?
A SUIT!
THERE IS SOMETHING I WANT TO TRY ON!
OI
I'LL HELP YOU.
THEN LET'S PRACTICE.
4
15
1
22
8
29
30
31
...AFTER ANOTHER, UNTIL...
IT'D LOOK GOOD ON ME, DON'T YOU THINK?
CHUCKLE...
EH?
YOU WANT TO WEAR THIS?

9

THE LAST COLUMN.

IN THE ONE BEFORE THIS, I WAS TALKING ABOUT MY CHILDHOOD. YOU'D THINK I'D HAVE SOMETHING MORE RECENT TO TALK ABOUT... YOU KNOW WHAT I'D LIKE TO DO? GO SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY AND SEE SOMETHING DIFFERENT FROM THE USUAL. BUT WHENEVER I TAKE THE SHINKANSEN UP TO TOKYO, I ALWAYS FALL ASLEEP ALONG THE WAY, SO, FOR EXAMPLE, I NEVER HAVE FUN GETTING TO SEE MT. FUJI. BESIDES, IN TOKYO, I ALWAYS JUST GO TO MY EDITOR'S OFFICE, SO OTHER THAN THAT ONE SPECIFIC COURSE, I'M NOT WELL-VERSED ABOUT THE CITY...HUH. COME TO THINK OF IT, I'M A PRETTY BORING PERSON, SO THERE'S NO WAY I COULD MAKE THESE COLUMNS A PLEASURE TO READ. MYSTERY SOLVED!

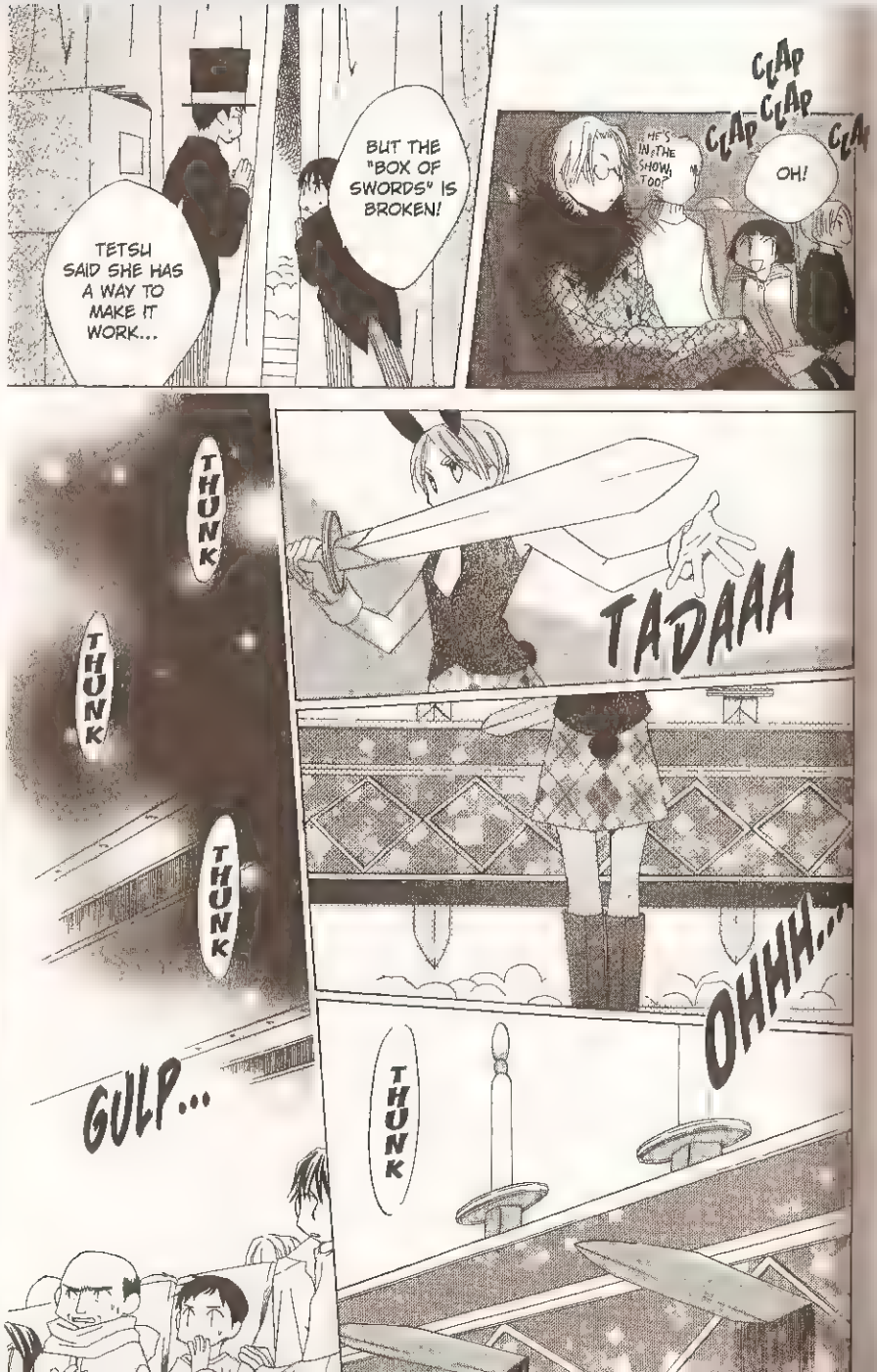
SEE YOU AT THE END OF THE VOLUME!

YOU LUCKED INTO A GOOD FAMILY.
YES.
I...
...OWE IT TO HER TO BECOME A WORTHY ADULT.
WELL, I'LL SEE THE SHOW WITH THE REST OF THE SPECTATORS.
BOOP
AND NOW, WE'RE PROUD TO PRESENT THE KADOU CLINIC MAGIC SHOW.
HALL
HURRY, HURRY...
MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING I CAN HELP WITH...

I HOPE YOU CAN BOUNCE BACK FROM THIS.
ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, IT SEEMS AS THOUGH THINGS WITH YOUR "LEAF" ARE WORKING OUT.
HAVEN'T YOU EVER HEARD OF A "WARDROBE"?
...ANYWAY, IF YOUR TRANSFORMATION SKILL IMPROVES, YOU'LL RECEIVE MORE POINTS.
NEW YEAR'S?
CHUCKLE
I HAVE SOMETHING PLANNED FOR NEW YEAR'S.
KYAAA!
YES...
EXCEPT THAT TE-CHAN WON'T LET ME HANDLE ALL THE HOUSEWORK.
I'M SURE SHE FEELS RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR POINTS BEING WHITTLED DOWN TO ONE.
...SO SHE'LL BE THERE TO BAIL ME OUT IF I SHOULD HAPPEN TO CHANGE BY CHANCE.
I BELIEVE SHE STAYS BY MY SIDE...
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS MY *OWN* CARELESSNESS THAT BROUGHT THIS ON...
BUT SHE'S NOT THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO WOULD EVER BRING THAT UP.

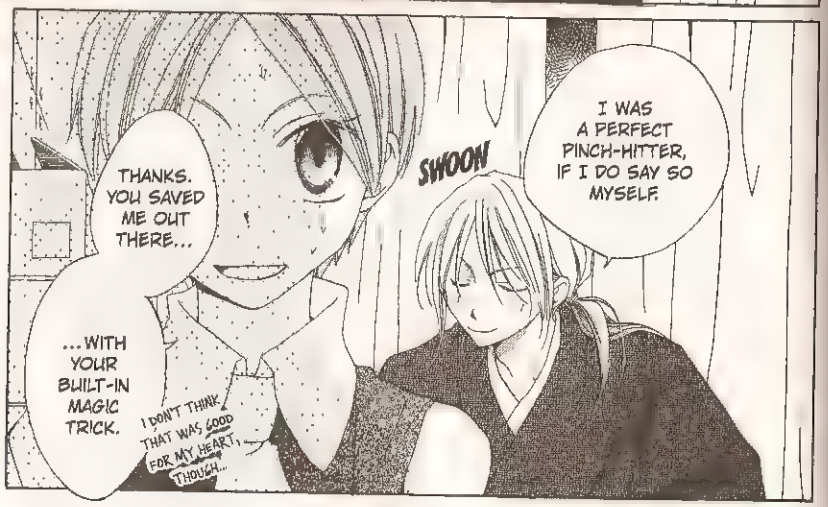
I SMASHED INTO A BOY AND WENT POOF..
GLANCE
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
WHAT'S WRONG, TE-CHAN? YOU LOOK LIVID.
GLANCE
NO ONE ELSE IS AROUND, ARE THEY?!
BUNNY...
FLASH!
OH!
THOSE KIDS JUST NOW...
THEY WERE IN A BIG HURRY!
I MEAN.. YIKES!
EHHH?!
RUMBLE
THEY SNUCK BACKSTAGE AND DESTROYED ONE OF OUR MAGIC PROPS...!!
RUMBLE RUMBLE
POOF!
WELL, MAYBE NOT. I WATCHED YOU THREE REHEARSE ...
PAT
...BUT NOW WE HAVE TO MAKE A SUDDEN CHANGE IN THE ACT!
DAD AND JI-CHAN ARE ALREADY ON STAGE...

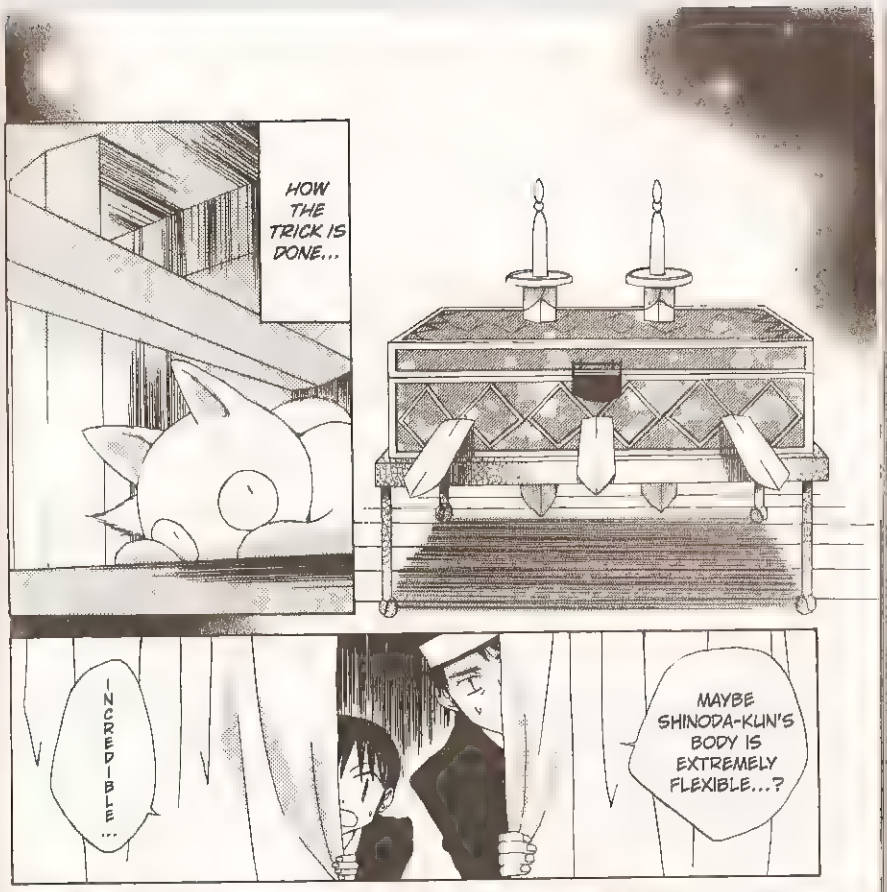
DA DA DA DA DA DA DA DA
HEY!
WHUMP
GYAAA!
CRASH!
POOF!
TA TA
DA DA
AH!
OWWW ...
GLANCE...
WHIZZZ
BRATS!
HOW CAN THEY RUN SO FAST ON THOSE LITTLE LEGS?
HUFF HUFF
FORGET ABOUT THAT! JUST RUN!
HUH? WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PERSON WE JUST BUMPED INTO?

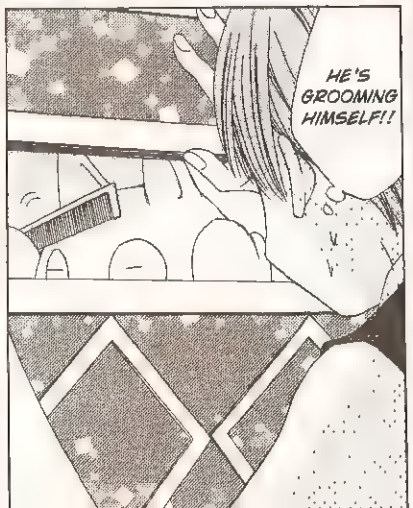

TETSU SAID SHE HAS A WAY TO MAKE IT WORK...
BUT THE "BOX OF SWORDS" IS BROKEN!
HE'S IN THE SHOW, TOO?
OH!
CLAP CLAP CLAP
THUNK
THUNK
THUNK
GULP...
THUNK
TADAAA
OHHH...

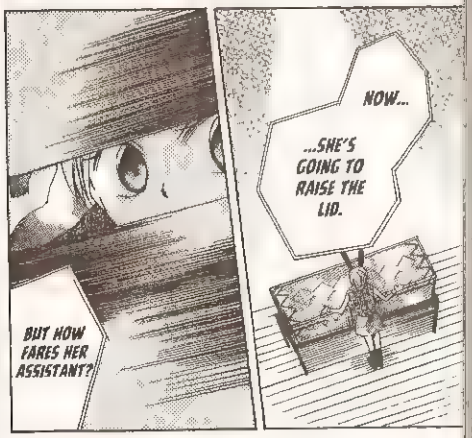
GRIN
...SO MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING I CAN DO...
...TO SALVAGE THE TRICK.
AND NOW...
WHAT WILL BE THE YOUNG MAN'S FATE AFTER HE GETS SHUT INSIDE...?
WAAAA
CLAP CLAP
...THE NEXT TRICK, THE "BOX OF SWORDS"!
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

WAAAAA
AS YOU CAN SEE, HE'S FINE!
POOF!
CLAP
NOT A SCRATCH ON HIM!
SNEAK...
WE'RE ON!
BREAK A LEG, JI-CHAN.
SHINODA, THAT WAS AMAZING!
GOOD JOB, SHINODA-KUN!


THANKS. YOU SAVED ME OUT THERE...
SWOON
I WAS A PERFECT PINCH-HITTER, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF.
...WITH YOUR BUILT-IN MAGIC TRICK.
I DON'T THINK THAT WAS GOOD FOR MY HEART THOUGH...


HOW THE TRICK IS DONE...
INCREDIBLE...
MAYBE SHINODA-KUN'S BODY IS EXTREMELY FLEXIBLE...?

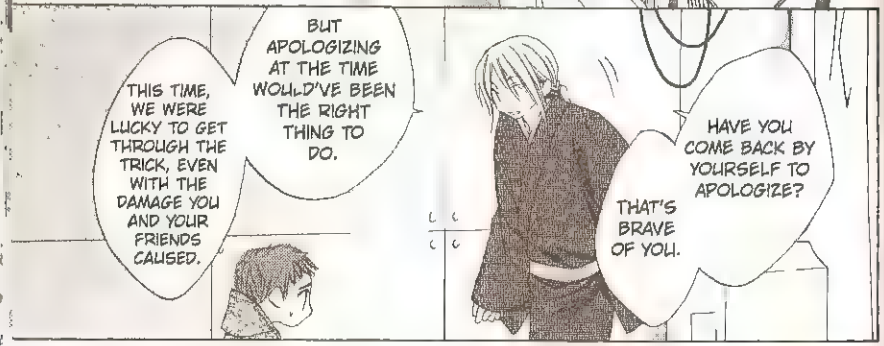

HE'S GROOMING HIMSELF!!


BUT HOW FARES HER ASSISTANT?
NOW...
...SHE'S GOING TO RAISE THE LID.

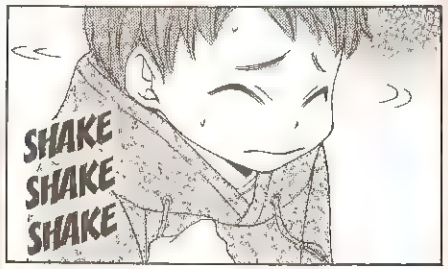
THOSE KIDS WHO WRECKED THE SWORD BOX ARE ALSO SOMEWHERE IN THE AUDIENCE
AND FINALLY...
...LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE LAST TRICK...
"THE CAGE OF FLOWERS."
FIRST, A BLUE FLOWER.
...THE GIRL IN THE CAGE WILL MAKE A MAGNIFICENT TRANSFORMATION.
USING "FLOWER POWER"...

I SAY, WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE, AS LONG AS THE AUDIENCE DOESN'T KNOW.
YOU'VE GOT A POINT.
YOU BET IT IS.
YOU SAW ALL THE CHILDREN IN THE CROWD.
A LOT OF THEM ARE KIDS WHO GOT A SAMPLE OF MY DAD'S MAGIC WHEN HE WAS EXAMINING THEM AND OTHERS ARE KIDS WHO GOT WIND OF THE "DOCTOR WHO DOES MAGIC."
LET'S SEE...
BLUE...
YELLOW, RED...
... OKAY!
THE CAGE TRICK IS IN ONE PIECE.
WE SHOULD BE FINE FROM HERE ON OUT.
THAT'S A RELIEF.
OH. SO THEN...
IT'D BE A CRIME TO DISAPPOINT THEM!
AND I COULDN'T STAND TO SEE MY DAD'S REP TAKE A DIVE.

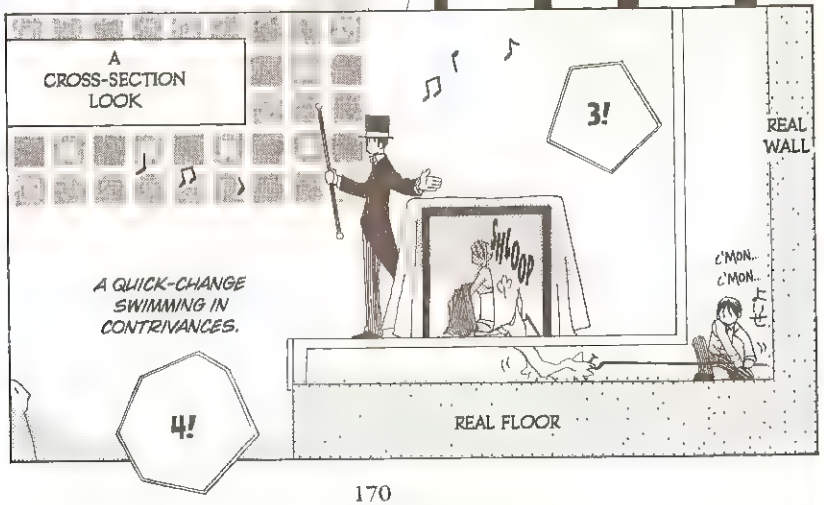
SIR, ARE YOU WITH KADOU-SENSEI?
TIMIDLY...
YOU'RE AN ONE OF THE THREE WHO BROKE THAT BOX AND THEN RAN AWAY...
AND NOW ...
OHHH!
RATTLE
5!
SWISH
THE POWER OF FLOWERS CHANGED HER LILY-WHITE DRESS INTO A BRILLIANT BLUE ONE!


THIS TIME, WE WERE LUCKY TO GET THROUGH THE TRICK, EVEN WITH THE DAMAGE YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS CAUSED.
BUT APOLOGIZING AT THE TIME WOULD'VE BEEN THE RIGHT THING TO DO.
HAVE YOU COME BACK BY YOURSELF TO APOLOGIZE?
THAT'S BRAVE OF YOU.

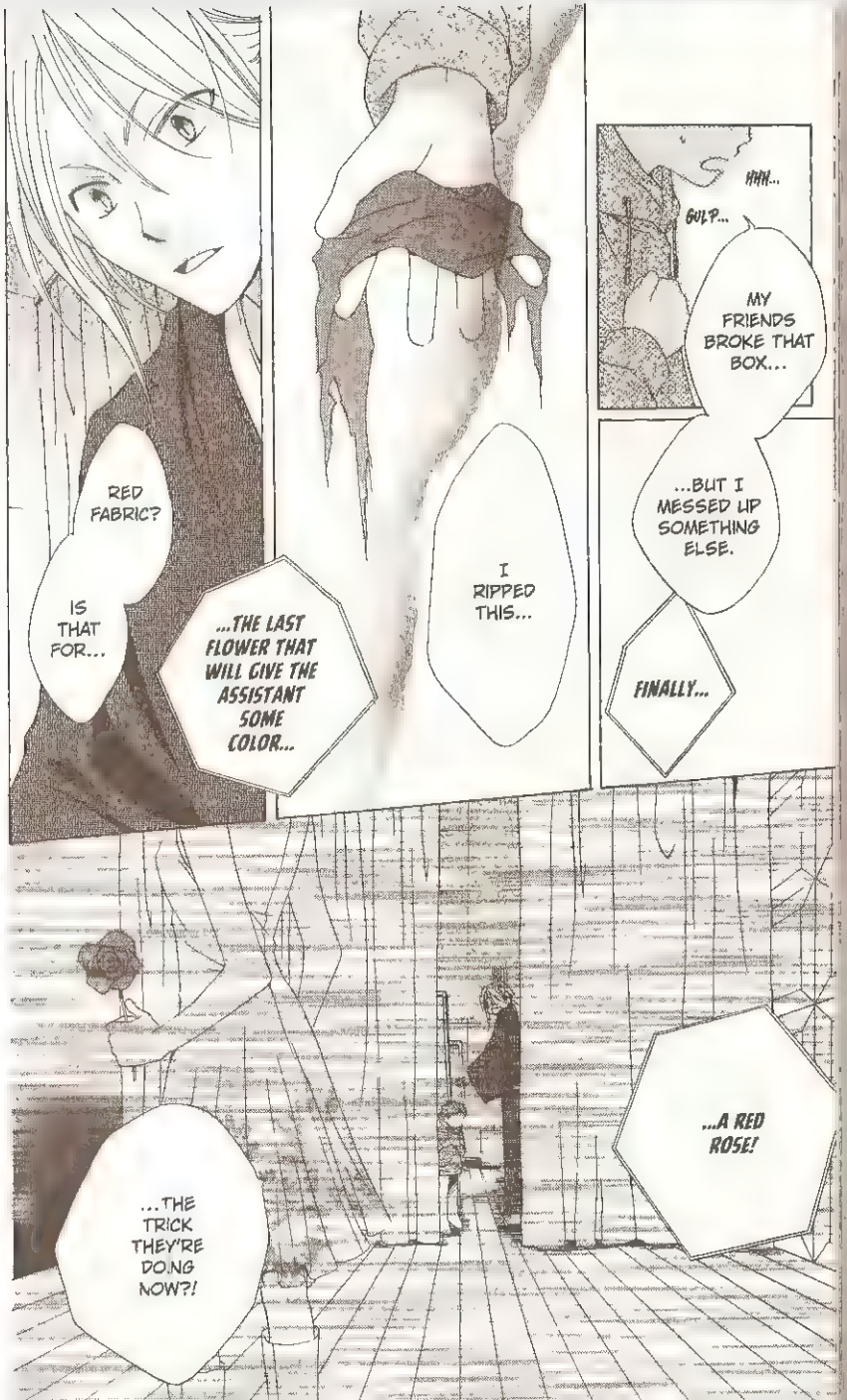
?

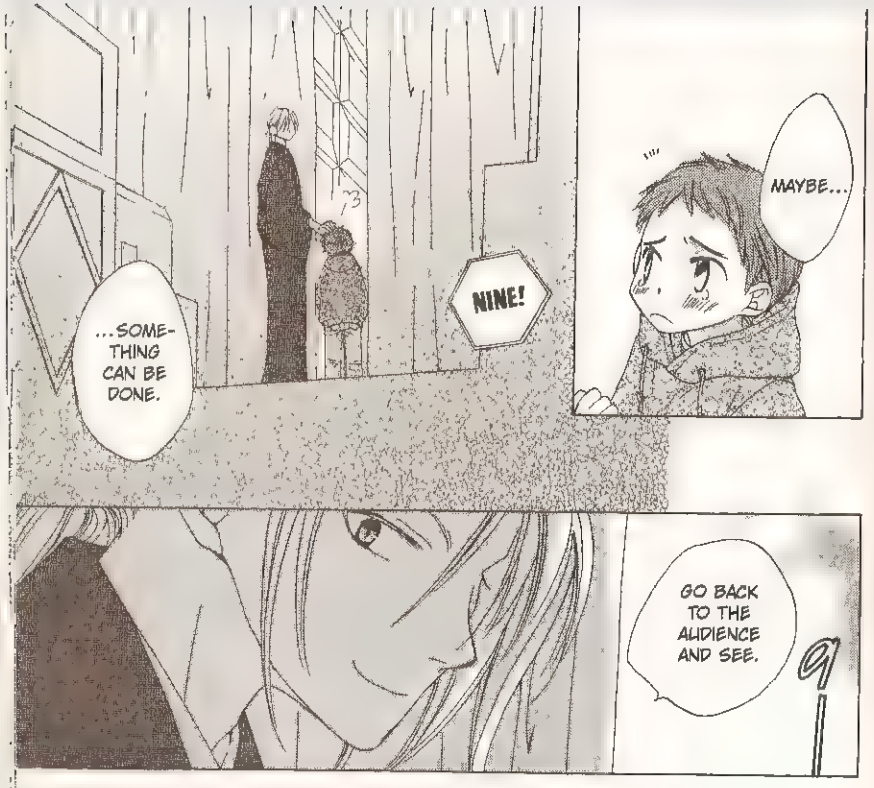

SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE

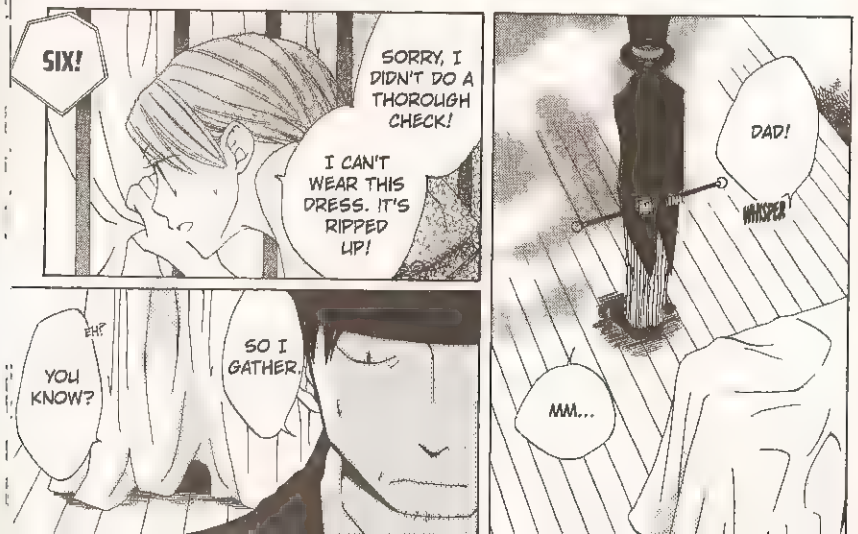
POK
1!
PAK
RUSTLE
JERK
2!
SWISH
THE DRESS IS STOWED AWAY IN HERE!


A CROSS-SECTION LOOK
3!
REAL WALL
SHLOOP
C'MON.. C'MON..
A QUICK-CHANGE SWIMMING IN CONTRIVANCES.
4!
REAL FLOOR

FOLKS...
FOR THIS LAST TRANSFORMATION, WE'LL GIVE HER A COUNT OF TEN!
PLEASE JOIN IN WITH ME!
SHOOP
DRESS, DRESS...
POK
FLAP


RED FABRIC?
IS THAT FOR...
...THE LAST FLOWER THAT WILL GIVE THE ASSISTANT SOME COLOR...
I RIPPED THIS...
HHH...
GULP...
MY FRIENDS BROKE THAT BOX...
...BUT I MESSED UP SOMETHING ELSE.
FINALLY...
...A RED ROSE!
...THE TRICK THEY'RE DOING NOW?!


MAYBE...
NINE!
...SOMETHING CAN BE DONE.
GO BACK TO THE AUDIENCE AND SEE.
9


SIX!
SORRY, I DIDN'T DO A THOROUGH CHECK!
I CAN'T WEAR THIS DRESS. IT'S RIPPED UP!
EH?
YOU KNOW?
SO I GATHER...
DAD!
WHISPER
MM...

10!
THE COUNT DOWN'S STARTED!
WE WANTED TO FIND OUT THE SECRETS SO BAD...
YIPE!
THE DRESS IS TORN?!
10
I'M SORRY.
CAN SOMETHING BE DONE...?
...HIC
...RED.
WELL...
WITHOUT A RED DRESS...
I DON'T THINK SO...

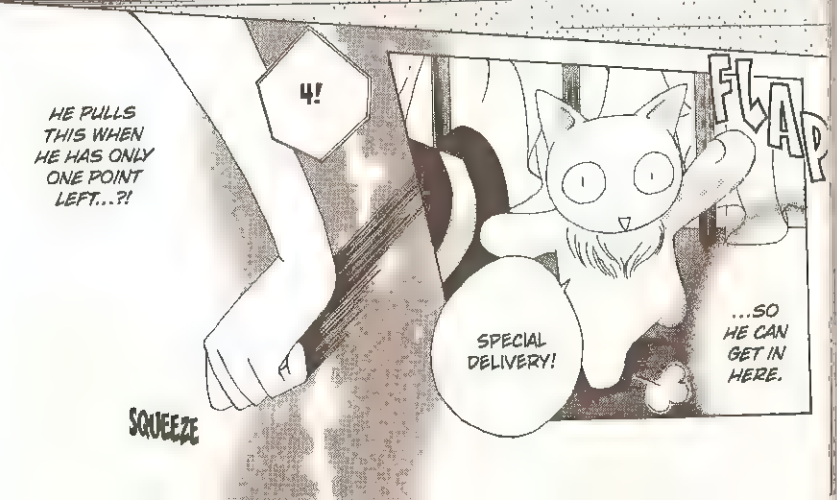
BUZZ BUZZ...
WHAT'S HE DOING?!
MARCH
THAT'S...
MARCH
MARCH
MARCH
HOW CUTE!
I THINK HE'LL GO...
...INTO NEGATIVE POINTS WITH THIS.
YOWA SAID THAT...?!
...BUT NOT TO TURN AROUND.
HE SAYS TO LEAVE EVERYTHING TO HIM...
6
SIX...!
NO, THAT'S NOT IT.
YOU'RE NOT FACING THIS WAY BECAUSE YOU'RE MAD...?
SHIN-ODA-KUN...
...IS GIVING ME DIRECTIONS, LIKE AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR.
Te-chan doesn't have a dress!
WE DON'T EVEN HAVE A SPARE DRESS!
HOW CAN HE DO ANYTHING ...?!
5!
BUZZ
HUH?
PEEK...

YOU'VE GOT TO BE MORE PROTECTIVE OF YOUR LAST POINT!
OR DON'T YOU WANT TO BECOME A FULL-FLEDGED FOX ANYMORE?!
STRETCH
DID YOU THINK ABOUT WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF SOMEBODY SEES THROUGH YOUR "ACT"?!
YOU
OWOWOWOW!
TE-CHAN!
GRIN
I DO, I DO!
BUT, TE-CHAN...

BUT I DO CARE.

3!
I FOUND SOMETHING THAT I COULD DO TO HELP...
...SO IT WOULDN'T LOOK GOOD IF I JUST DID NOTHING ONLY SO I COULD PROTECT MY POINT!
YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO CARE ABOUT WHAT WOULD OR WOULDN'T LOOK GOOD!

SIGHHH
THEY THINK HE'S A DOLL...!
THEY...
IT COULD BE RADIO-CONTROLLED
IS IT A MARIONETTE?
WHAT KIND OF DOLL IS THIS, YOU ASK? I'LL LET YOU BE THE JUDGE.
MAYBE IT'S A WINDUP DOLL!
CLAP
CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP
HE'S DOING IT ON PURPOSE! ACTING LIKE A MECHANICAL DOLL...


HE PULLS THIS WHEN HE HAS ONLY ONE POINT LEFT...?!
4!
FLAP
SPECIAL DELIVERY!
...SO HE CAN GET IN HERE.
SQUEEZE

WA
A
A
MAGNIFICENT!
SWISH
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
IT APPEARS AS IF THE DOLL TURNED INTO THE YOUNG MAN...!
AND HE HAS THE GIRL BUNDLED UP IN A RED KIMONO!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

I WANT TO BE A FULL-FLEDGED FOX...
...WHO'S NOT EMBARRASSED BY HIS "LEAF."
2!
ONE!
YOU MEAN ...
RIGHT.
... YOWA.
WHICH IS WHY I BROUGHT YOU A DRESS.
... AH!

TAK
TAK
HE DID SAY HE HAD SOMETHING PLANNED FOR NEW YEAR'S. COLOR ME IMPRESSED.
"PLUS."
10
:23 KADOU'S HOUSE 9 1
:46 INARIBE HALL +4
TAK
LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE KADOU CLINIC MAGIC SHOW!
...BUT I'M EAGERLY WAITING FOR TOMORROW TO COME.
M-MAYBE EVENTUALLY...
HEY, TELL US HOW YOU DID IT!
I STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO...

FULL-FLEDGED H♥K: THE END

BUT WHEN WOULD YOU EVER WEAR THIS?
ON NEW YEAR'S!
OUR HOUSEKEEPER...
...IS A NOT-HALF-BAD SUPERNATURAL FOX CREATURE.
I SUPPOSE...
...THAT COUNTS AS A NEW TRANS-FORMATION.

NO.

DATE 2004 - 2006

KUSAKAWA NOTES

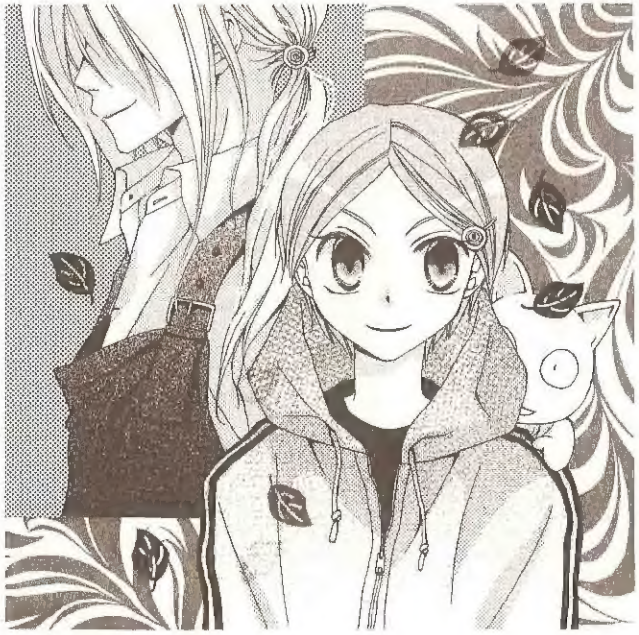
ABOUT CLOTHES

I HAVE A GENERAL IDEA OF WHAT KIND OF CLOTHES I WANT TO SEE ON EACH CHARACTER (CELLO DOESN'T WEAR ANY KIND OF "GIRLS' CLOTHING," MOSSELYN WEARS MORE "GIRLY" STUFF THAN CELLO, GOSTI WEARS SEXY BUT NEAT ATTIRE, MAGE WORKS THE HAT AND TIE-LESS SUIT...), BUT WITH DR. GUELL, ALL THE CLOTHES I ORIGINALLY THOUGHT OF HAVING HIM WEAR SOMEHOW WENT TO FENNE. HE'S THE ONE CHARACTER I'M STILL WANDERING IN THE DARK ABOUT. SO FAR, I'VE PUT HIM IN BORING CLOTHES WITH A KIND OF NATURAL FEEL, BUT I'M STILL HOPING THAT INSPIRATION WILL STRIKE.

I THOUGHT FOR SURE THIS KIND OF OUTFIT WOULD SUIT HIM THE BEST...
...BUT AFTER DRAWING IT, I WAS SHOCKED AT JUST HOW PEDESTRIAN IT LOOKED.
MY FAVORITE CONVENIENCE STORE FOOD DEEP-FRIED CHICKEN.
MY IMAGI-NATION ...
THOUGH IF I THINK ABOUT IT...
...I DON'T THINK HE'S THE TYPE WHO WOULD CARE MUCH ABOUT CLOTHES ANYWAY.
'CELLO WOULD KEEP HER DISTANCE FROM THE DOCTOR.
IF SWEATS EXISTED IN OPAL...
24
24
24

Full-fledged H❤K Preview Cut.

When I did this, I don't think I'd decided on what clothes Yowa would change into for the finish.



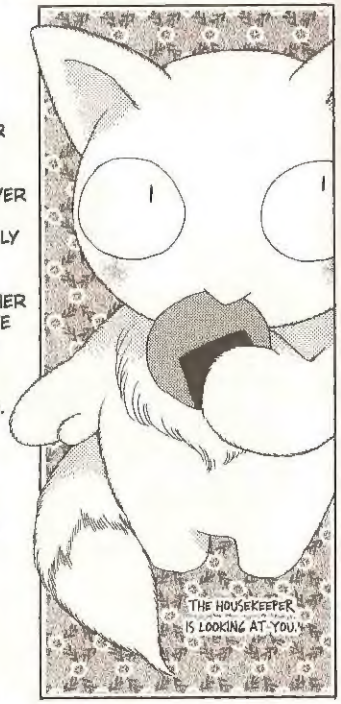
NO.
DATE 2004-2006

EPISODE 15

ACCORDING TO A FRIEND, ONE OF THE WORDS I USED IN THE STORY, "HOUKA" (MEANING "THE TIME BETWEEN CLASSES") IS A DIALECT WORD, NOT STANDARD JAPANESE. I HAD NO IDEA. WHY, WHEN "HOUKAGO" ("AFTER SCHOOL") IS USED THROUGHOUT JAPAN?

FULL-FLEDGED H❤K

I GOT THE IDEA FOR THE FORM OF A FULL-FLEDGED FOX CREATURE WHEN I WENT TO FUSHIMI INARI SHRINE IN KYOTO. THE SOUVENIR SWEETS I BOUGHT HAD A FOX FACE PRINTED ON THEM. THE ORANGE SHADING OF THE FACE ATTRACTED MY ATTENTION. I REALLY LABORED OVER THE BREAKDOWNS FOR THIS STORY.
I REMEMBER BEING PLEASED AT DRAWING A REALLY WEIRD-LOOKING CREATURE. (ACTUALLY, THAT HAPPENS A LOT.) THE HOUSEKEEPING AGENCY MENTIONED IN THE STORY EMPLOYS SEVERAL OTHER FOXES AND TESTS THEM AS WELL. THEY ALL HAVE SLANTED EYES. ALSO, I TRIED TO USE THE KANJI "YO" (MEANING "NIGHT") SOMEWHERE IN THE HOUSEKEEPER'S NAME. THE CHIEF'S NAME IS "YOIMIYA" ("YOI" BEING THE KANJI FOR "EVENING"). I WANTED TO HAVE THE NAMES OF THE PEOPLE IN THE KADOU FAMILY ALL END IN "TSU" AND SPENT HOURS RACKING MY BRAIN FOR A NAME FOR THE FATHER. IN THE END, I COULDN'T COME UP WITH ANYTHING, BUT IT DIDN'T DO ANY HARM TO THE STORY. I ALWAYS EAT UP A LOT OF TIME TRYING TO THINK UP CHARACTER NAMES.



NO.
DATE 2004-2006

ABOUT EACH EPISODE
EPISODE 12

I HAD A NEW ASSISTANT WORKING WITH ME ON THIS EPISODE (THIS WAS HER FIRST), BUT ALMOST AS SOON AS SHE STARTED, I CAME DOWN WITH A STOMACH VIRUS OR SOMETHING. ON HER FIRST AND SECOND DAYS AT THE OFFICE, I TRIED TO LOOK NICE, BUT IT WAS DOWNHILL AFTER THAT, WITH ME IN MY PAJAMAS, SWEATING ALL DAY AND NIGHT. WE HARDLY HAD ANY TIME TO TALK AND I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO WORRY ABOUT MY APPEARANCE, SO HERE'S MY APOLOGY FOR LOOKING SO SHABBY.

EPISODE 13

IT SEEMS THAT I WAS HALF-ASLEEP WHILE INKING, AS ONE OF THE SFX ON PAGE 76, WHICH WAS SUPPOSED TO BE "WHIZZZ WHIZZZ WHIZZZ" BECAME "WHIZZZ WHIZZZ SO THAT'S WHY." "WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?!", I THOUGHT. ALSO, IN THE CLASSROOM, WHERE THE TEACHER IS SUPPOSED TO SAY, "...THE WAY THE COLOR LOOKS CAN DIFFER ACCORDING TO THE SIZE OF THE AREA." BECAME "...THE WAY THE HEART LOOKS...", ALTHOUGH IT MAY SEEM LIKE THE TEACHER WAS TRYING TO SAY SOMETHING WITH THAT, IT WAS A MISTAKE AND I CORRECTED IT.

EPISODE 14

MY MOTHER MISTAKENLY TOOK THE FIRST PANEL (A HIGH-FLYING BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF OPAL) TO BE A PORK CUTLET. I CAN SEE WHERE SHE'S COMING FROM. EVERY TIME I SEE SWIMMERS SLAP THE WALL (OR THE BOAT, IN THIS CASE) AT THE HALFWAY POINT, I ALSO WORRY THAT THEY'RE GOING TO SPRAIN A FINGER. I'M SURE THAT GOOD SWIMMERS CAN ACCURATELY ESTIMATE WHERE THE WALL IS, THOUGH. THE OTHER DAY, I WENT TO LIE DOWN ON MY COUCH AND MISJUDGED WHERE THE END OF THE CUSHION WAS, SO I BANGED MY HEAD ON THE WOODEN ARMREST.

PARALLEL PARALLEL
PALETTE OF 12 SECRET COLORS << >> TWO FLOWERS FOR THE DRAGON VOL. 3
PALETTE OF 12 SECRET COLORS << >> TWO FLOWERS FOR THE DRAGON VOL. 2
I'VE HEARD THAT GRAPES ...
...ARE VERY NOURISHING...
THIS SHOULD BE ANOTHER JUICY SCENE...
AHHH...
KA-CHA
MY BODY DOES FEEL SLUGGISH, COME TO THINK OF IT.
KUWAN...!?
...SO I'LL PEEL THESE GRAPES FOR YOU...
...WHILE LUCIEN CONCENTRATES ON DINNER.
WILL YOU TEND TO ME?
I DON'T NEED ANY GRAPES SO GO AHEAD AND FEED YOYO.
AHA!
AAAH!
...WHAT, YOYO?
"LUCIEN" WOULDN'T DO THAT.
AH...
YEAH.
I SUPPOSE.
UNCONCERNED
UM...WE COMPLETELY LOST THE ORIGINAL NUANCE, BUT OH WELL...
YOU HELPED ME, SO NOW I'LL HELP YOU.
HELLO, FEEL ME AN APPLE.
I FOUND A ROLE FOR MYSELF.

NO.

DATE 2004 - 2006

I APOLOGIZE FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO ANSWER YOUR LETTERS, BUT IF YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE YOUR OPINION, BY ALL MEANS, WRITE TO THIS ADDRESS:

NARI KUSAKAWA
'C/O CMX
888 PROSPECT STREET, SUITE 240
LA JOLLA, CA 92037

MY WEBSITE, WITH ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT MY WORK, ETC, IS:

HTTP://LOTUS.HER.JP/
(CURRENT AS OF JUNE 2008)

I WHITTLED AN ERASER TO MAKE A KECHONPA STAMP.

I WANT TO THANK: ALL OF YOU FOR READING THIS; MY EDITOR, THE PUBLISHING COMPANY AND THE STORES FOR STOCKING THIS; KAORU SASHI-SAMA, BAKU YUMITSUKI-SAMA, KUROTANI-SAMA; MY FAMILY, RELATIVES AND FRIENDS; AND THE LIQUOR STORE THAT LETS ME MAKE MY COPIES.
I APPRECIATE ALL OF YOU.

2007.01

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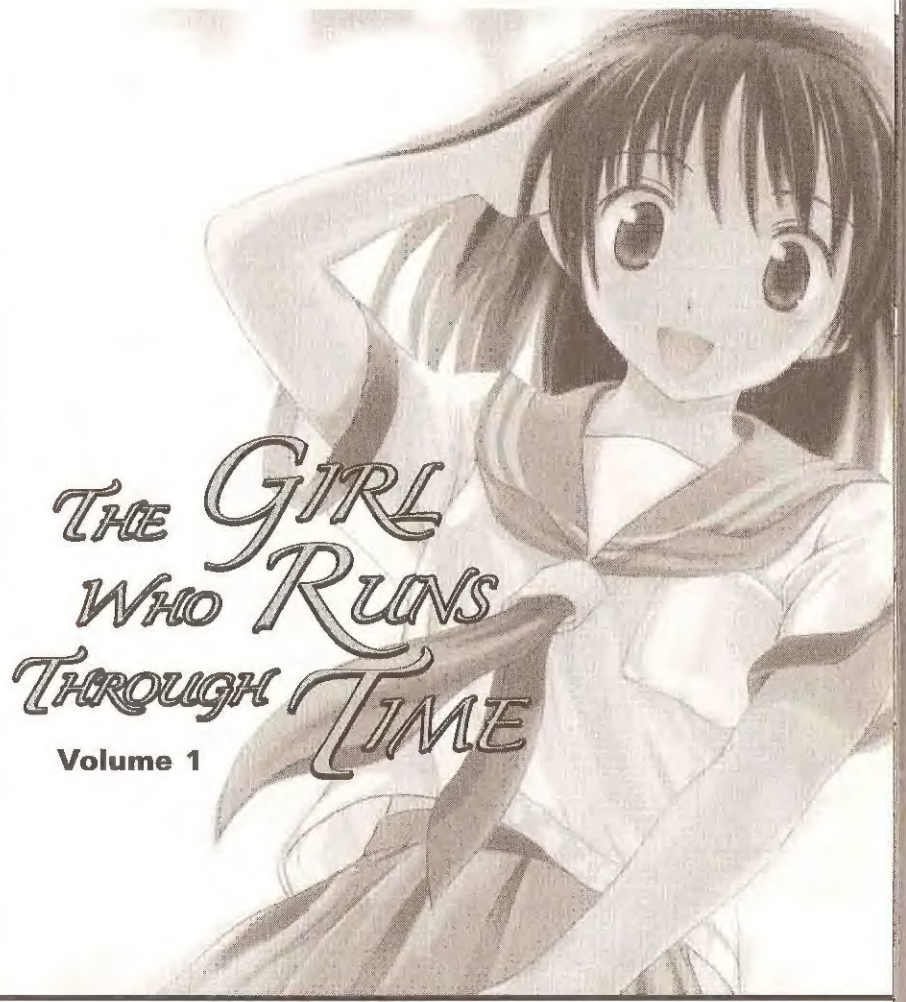

The Girl Who Runs Through Time

Volume 1

Original story by Yasutaka Tsutsui. By Gaku Tsugano. Alone one day after school, high school senior Kazuko discovers a broken beaker in the science lab. She passes out, and then finds herself transported back to her own past! From that moment on, Kazuko realizes that she has the ability to teleport through time. Naturally, Kazuko wants to help people in trouble. But no matter how small, a change in the past can alter the future forever. Even good intentions can sometimes have bad consequences!

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